

## ONE NEW YORK: FIGHTING FOR FAIRNESS

November 5, 2008

Hon. Christine C. Quinn  
Speaker  
New York City Council  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Speaker Quinn:

All New Yorkers are reeling from the current economic crisis; yet, few are likely to be harder hit than the poorest New Yorkers.

While New York City must show restraint in its expenditures and invest public dollars prudently in cost effective programming, it is paramount that both sides of the budget ledger – Revenue and Expense – be addressed and fairness be the guiding principle in this effort. This balanced approach to budgeting is urgently needed, as ill-conceived budget reductions can and will lead to unimaginable human strain and decimate an already fragile social infrastructure, killing jobs and reducing spending in every community at precisely the moment when economic stimulus is needed.

Last week, Mayor Bloomberg announced 18 initiatives designed to help provide targeted relief to New Yorkers to help weather the economic crisis. These initiatives reflect the right instincts, but the city must do more to ensure that budget reduction targets announced today, do not compound the effects of private sector job losses and further slow the city's economy. Protecting funding for core and safety net services is essential to help counteract what is likely to be a severe economic downturn with increased human needs.

We have already experienced state and city reductions prior to the September financial meltdown. As a result we are seeing record numbers of families seeking shelter for the first time and schools cutting back on text books and after school programs. In addition, food pantries and soup kitchens are stretched beyond existing resources, as are a wide range of community based and other service providers of primary health care, affordable child care, mental health services, substance abuse prevention, AIDS services, housing, immigrant services, legal services, child abuse and neglect prevention, and senior services, among others.

In light of this dire economic situation, all efforts to increase city revenue in a progressive manner must be on the table. Mayor Bloomberg has advanced several proposals today and, together with the City Council, must identify cost savings and revenue-raising options that make certain that the city's capacity to address the increased needs of New Yorkers is not diminished and that the poor will be protected from shouldering an undue and unjust burden of the faltering economy. The efforts of city leaders must ensure that budget cuts do not make matters worse by damaging an already hurting economy.

Sincerely,

One New York Coalition

Advocates for Children  
Alliance for Quality Education  
ARISE Coalition/Advocates for Children  
Asian American Federation  
Black Equity Alliance  
Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled  
Campaign for Fiscal Equity  
Canaan Senior Service Center  
Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY (CIDNY)  
Child Care Council @ CUNY  
Children's Aid Society  
Citizen Action of NY (CASF)  
Citizens Advice Bureau  
Citizens' Committee for Children of New York (CCC)  
Citywide Council on High Schools  
Class Size Matters  
Coalition for a District Alternative (CODA)  
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families  
Coalition For The Homeless  
Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies  
College of Mount Saint Vincent- Institute for Immigrant Concerns  
Commission on the Public's Health System  
Community Access  
Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCANYS)  
Community Service Society of New York (CSS)  
Community Voices Heard  
Connecting to Advantages  
Council of Family and Child Care Agencies (COFCCA)  
Council of Senior Centers and Services of New York City, Inc.  
Cypress Hills Child Care Corp.  
District Council 37, AFSCME, AFL-CIO  
Education Voters of New York  
Episcopal Social Services  
Family Justice  
Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies  
Fiscal Policy Institute  
Freedom Community Center  
Goddard Riverside Community Center  
Good Jobs New York  
Grand Street Settlement House  
Greater Chinatown Community Association (GCCA)  
Haitian Americans United for Progress (HAUP)  
Hamilton-Madison House  
HANAC, Inc.  
Harlem United Community AIDS Center, Inc.  
Henry Street Settlement  
Highbridge Community Life Center  
Hispanic AIDS Forum, Inc.

Hispanic Federation of New York State  
HIV Law Project, Inc.  
Human Services Council  
Hunger Action Network of NYS (HANNYS)  
Institute for Community Living  
The Internationals Network for Public Schools  
Isabella Geriatric Center  
Jamaica Service Program For Older Adults  
Korean American Family Service Center  
Legal Aid Society  
Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT)  
Legal Services NYC  
Lenox Hill Neighborhood House  
Make the Road New York  
Medicare Rights Center  
Melrose Senior Center  
MFY Legal Services  
Mosholu Montefiore Community Center  
National Association of Social Workers, NYC Chapter  
National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS (NBLCA)  
National Center for Schools and Communities at Fordham  
Neighborhood Family Services Coalition  
New York ACORN  
New York AIDS Coalition  
New York Citizen's Committee on Aging, Inc.  
New York City Central Labor Council  
New York City Employment and Training Coalition  
New York Civic Participation Project/32BJ  
New York Immigrant Coalition  
New York State Coalition for School Based Health Center  
NY Jobs with Justice  
NYC AIDS Housing Network/ NYCAHN  
NYC Coalition for Educational Justice  
NYS Public Employees Federation, Region 10  
One Stop Senior Services  
Phipps Community Development Corporation  
Pratt Center for Community Development  
Professional Staff Congress-CUNY  
Project Renewal  
Riverstone Senior Life Services  
SCAN-New York  
SEIU Local 32BJ  
Staten Island Inter-Agency Council for the Aging  
Staten Island Legal Services  
Supportive Housing Network of New York  
The Center for Law and Social Justice, at Medgar Evers College, City University of NY  
The Children's Village  
The Committee for Hispanic Children & Families, Inc.  
Time Out From Testing  
UAW LOCAL 2325 Association of Legal Aid Attorneys (AFL-CIO)  
UAW Region 9A

United Community Center, Inc.  
United Federation of Teachers  
United Neighborhood Houses  
Village Care of New York  
Working Families Party  
YKASEC-Empowering the Korean American Community