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GROUPS REPRESENTING HOMELESS AND CHILDREN ENDORSE FAIR SHARE TAX REFORM ACT: CONTRIBUTION FROM NEW YORK'S HIGHEST EARNERS TO HELP CLOSE BUDGET GAP

Balancing Budget Gap Without Real 'Shared Sacrifice' Will Devastate New York

New York City— Groups representing the homeless and children endorsed the Fair Share Tax Reform Act, introduced today to the State Senate by Senator Schneiderman. The proposal would generate \$6 billion in revenue to help close the state's budget gap through a progressive tax increase.

Mary Brosnahan, Executive Director of the Coalition for the Homeless, said: "We applaud Senator Schneiderman for taking the lead with this plan to ask New York's most well-off to pitch in. Vulnerable New Yorkers need help, now, more than ever. New York City has set new records for homelessness — including all-time high numbers of newly homeless families entering shelters — and yet Governor Paterson is planning to eliminate homeless prevention and reduce support for aftercare and support services. These cuts have a human price and will cost taxpayers more in the long run."

Jennifer March Joly, Executive Director of Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, said: "Progressive tax increases are the most equitable and least painful way of addressing the economic crisis that New York State faces. The Fair Share Tax Reform Act reflects New Yorkers' belief that sacrifice must truly be shared and requires a contribution from the state's highest earners. Support for the Fair Share Tax Reform Act is in the best interest of all New Yorkers because the revenue produced from this proposal will permit the state to protect investments in cost effective programs that keep children and families healthy, housed, educated and safe."

Jim Purcell, Executive Director of Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies said: "With this bill, Senator Schneiderman has cleared a path to a more equitable solution to the state's budget crisis. New Yorkers support progressive revenues to prevent profound and lasting harm to our safety-net services because they understand at the end of the day, we are all in this together. Now, state leaders cannot abandon their commitment to our most vulnerable residents by moving forward with plans to cut millions from youth programs and services for older adults to preventive services and home visiting programs."

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Nancy Wackstein, Executive Director United Neighborhood Houses, said: "Senator Schneiderman has cleared a path to a more equitable solution to the state's budget crisis. New Yorkers support progressive revenues to prevent profound and lasting harm to our safety-net services because they understand at the end of the day, we are all in this together. Now, state leaders cannot abandon their commitment to our most vulnerable residents by cutting millions from youth programs and services for older adults to preventive services and home visiting programs."