The Honorable Nancy Pelosi Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable Mitch McConnell Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate Washington, DC 20510

July 17, 2020

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader McCarthy and Minority Leader Schumer:

NEW YORK_____

HOUSINGCONFERENCE

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we call on Congress to fund **\$100 billion** in rental assistance for households impacted by COVID-19 and **\$915 billion** to keep state and local governments funded, in order to continue critical public programs.

With widespread job loss and more than 30,000 dead in our state, the virus has taken a devastating toll on New York State's communities and its economy, with low-income communities and Black and Latino households bearing a disproportionate share of the health and economic harms. Prior to this health crisis, one out of every three renter households were already paying more than 30% of their income on housing in New York. While enhanced unemployment assistance and eviction moratoriums have aided many renters, these households are facing risk of eviction when benefits end before the economy has even partially recovered.

This pandemic has underscored the importance of housing to the safety and well-being of Americans. Families and individuals have been asked to socially distance to prevent the spread of the virus, and they can only do that with safe and stable housing. This is why rental assistance should be viewed as a critical component of the public health response to fighting this deadly virus. Without it, families will be forced to double up in overcrowded conditions or face homelessness. These outcomes will impede efforts to control COVID-19.

But because of this crisis, many Americans are at risk of losing their housing. As businesses have shuttered to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus, millions of Americans have lost their jobs or seen their hours cut. NYU Furman Center estimates that nearly 1.2 million renter households in NY State have suffered COVID-19 related job loss and that half of these households are low-income. Assuming 25% job recovery, they project that in August (once enhanced benefits expire), the rental assistance need among low-income households in New York State will be approximately \$391 million per month. Without government assistance, many will be unable to afford their rent.

However, revenues have declined dramatically for city and state governments, and they will be unable to provide the needed housing assistance. At risk are also a wide array of programs such as education, social services and affordable housing.

As leaders of the House and Senate, it is in your power to take action. Together, the following organizations and elected officials call on you to act with urgency to include critical funding for rental assistance and aid to state and local governments in the next federal funding package.

Sincerely,

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Rachel Fee Executive Director New York Housing Conference

In partnership, the following 51 New York elected officials, 5 former housing agency leaders and 98 organizations jointly sign this letter:

Elected Officials

Jumaane Williams, New York City Public Advocate Eric Adams, Brooklyn Borough President Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., Bronx Borough President New York State Senator Monica Martinez, SD 3 New York State Senator James Gaughran, SD 5 New York State Senator Kevin Thomas, SD 6 New York State Senator Anna Kaplan, SD 7 New York State Senator John Liu. SD 11 New York State Senator Michael Gianaris, SD 12 New York State Senator Leroy Comrie, SD 14 New York State Senator Julia Salazar, SD 18 New York State Senator Kevin Parker, SD 21 New York State Senator Andrew Gounardes, SD 22 New York State Senator Diane Savino, SD 23 New York State Senator Velmanette Montgomery, SD 25 New York State Senator Brian Kavanagh, SD 26 New York State Senator Brad Hoylman, SD 27 New York State Senator Liz Krueger, SD 28 New York State Senator Brian Benjamin, SD 30 New York State Senator Luis Sepúlveda, SD 32 New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera, SD 33 New York State Senator Alessandra Biaggi, SD 34

New York State Senator Shelly Mayer, SD 37 New York State Senator David Carlucci, SD 38 New York State Senator James Skoufis, SD 39 New York State Senator Rachel May, SD 53 New York State Senator Timothy Kennedy, SD 63 New York State Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi, District 28 New York State Assembly Member Brian Barnwell, District 30 New York State Assembly Member Aravella Simotas, District 36 New York State Assembly Member Steven Cymbrowitz, District 45 New York State Assembly Member Mathylde Frontus, District 46 New York State Assembly Member Walter Mosley, District 57 New York State Assembly Member Richard Gottfried, District 75 New York State Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, District 76 New York State Assembly Member Karines Reyes, District 87 New York State Assembly Member Donna Lupardo, District 123 New York State Assembly Member Pamela Hunter, District 128 New York State Assembly Member Harry Bronson, District 138 New York City Council Speaker Corey Johnson, District 3 New York City Council Member Carlina Rivera, District 2 New York City Council Member Keith Powers, District 4 New York City Council Member Diana Ayala, District 8 New York City Council Member Barry Grodenchik, District 23 New York City Council Member Antonio Reynoso, District 34 New York City Council Member Robert E. Cornegy, Jr., District 36 New York City Council Member Carlos Menchaca, District 38 New York City Council Member Brad Lander, District 39 New York City Council Member Kalman Yager, District 44 New York City Council Member Debi Rose, District 49

Former Housing Agency Leaders

Shaun Donovan, Former HUD Secretary & OMB Director Marc Jahr, Former New York City Housing Development Corporation President Gary Rodney, Former New York City Housing Development Corporation President Mathew Wambua, Former New York City Dept of Housing Preservation & Development Commissioner Rafael Cestero, Former New York City Dept of Housing Preservation & Development Commissioner

Organizations

334 East 92nd Street Tenant AssociationThe Actors FundAmerican Academy of Housing and CommunitiesThe Arker Companies

Ascendant Neighborhood Development Corporation Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development Benchmark Title Agency LLC **Bernheimer Architecture Breaking Ground** Bright Power Brownsville Partnership CAMBA. Inc. Carroll Gardens Association, Inc. Center for New York City Neighborhoods Central Park Gardens Tenants' Association Chhaya Community Development Corporation Citizens' Committee for Children of New York Citizens Housing and Planning Council Coalition for the Homeless Community League of the Heights. Inc The Community Preservation Corporation Community Service Society of NY CREA, LLC CSH Curtis + Ginsberg Architects LLP Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation **Dattner Architects** Douglaston Development Dunn Development Corp. **Enterprise Community Partners** Federal Home Loan Bank of NY Fifth Avenue Committee Fordham Bedford Housing Corporation **FPWA** Gateway Housing Goddard Riverside Goldstein Hall PLLC Gotham Greater Syracuse Tenants Network Habitat for Humanity New York City Highbridge Community Development Corp. Housing Justice for All Housing Rights Initiative The Hudson Companies Inc Hudson River Housing

Human Services Council **IMPACCT Brooklyn** Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing JOE NYC Corp. **Kinetic Communities Consulting** LeadingAge New York Legal Aid Society LISC NYC LiveOn NY Low Income Investment Fund Magnusson Architecture & Planning MBD Community Housing Corp. Mega Contracting **Merchants Capital** Metro Futures MHANY Management Inc. MLappin & Associates LLC Mount Vernon United Tenants, Inc. National Housing Conference National Panhellenic Council of NYC, INC **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** New Destiny Housing New York City Housing Partnership New York Land Bank Association New York State Association for Affordable Housing New York State Council of Churches New York State Rural Housing Coalition, Inc. Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition The NRP Group Pennrose, LLC Phipps Houses Power of Two, Project of the Fund for the City of New York Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY) **Red Hook Initiative Red Stone Equity Partners Regional Plan Association Regions Affordable Housing** Related RiseBoro Community Partnership Rockabill Selfhelp Realty Group

Settlement Housing Fund SKA Marin Slate Property Group St. Catherine's Center for Children St. Nicks Alliance Supportive Housing Network of New York UAI Urban Builders Collaborative LLC University Neighborhood Housing Program Wavecrest Management Win YWCA BROOKLYN