



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Ruben Diaz

New York State Senator Reverend Ruben Diaz Outraged by Governor Paterson's Proposal to Cut Meals for Seniors

RUBEN DIAZ October 16, 2009

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New York State Senator Reverend Ruben Diaz (D-Bronx) is incensed by Governor Paterson's outline of proposed State Budget cuts that will sever 20% of the Meals on Wheels Program. Despite the thousands of seniors who remain on the Meals on Wheels waiting list, the Governor has recommended that even less seniors receive the one meal a day.

"The Governor needs a reality check here! Meals on Wheels provides one healthy meal to needy senior citizens. To some of these seniors, this is a matter between eating and not eating – the difference between life and death," stated Senate Aging Committee Chair, Senator Rev. Diaz. "Governor Paterson has no problem ignoring scams that provide tax free windfalls for private corporations by allowing tax free "dead peasant insurance" but he can force cuts to deny food to New York senior citizens. Ridiculous!"

Senator Reverend Ruben Diaz has proposed three bills: Senate Bill S2550 which provides that issuers of debit and credit cards shall pay sales and user taxes directly to the State; Senate Bill 1645 to create the New York State Prescription Medication Cost Containment Program; and Senate Bill S6209 to create the New York State Seniors Trust Fund to purposely raise money to pay for the elimination of waiting lists for home delivered meals.

All three pieces of legislation would save the State millions of dollars, and all three pieces of legislation were provide to Lt. Governor Richard Ravitch prior to the Executive Office's proposed reduction plans.