



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Brian Kavanagh

## Legislators, Advocates Renew Call for \$100B in Federal Rent Relief, \$915B for States & Localities

BRIAN KAVANAGH July 17, 2020

| ISSUE: **FEDERAL FUNDING, COVID-19, HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION**

| COMMITTEE: **HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**



On July 17, 2020, Senator Kavanagh joined the NY Housing Conference and hundreds of colleagues and advocates, urging the leaders of the U.S. Congress to fund \$100 billion in rental assistance for households impacted by COVID-19 and \$915 billion to maintain critical services and balance the budgets of state and local governments. Their letter renewed the call Senator Kavanagh had led in mid-April 2020 for a similar commitment of rental assistance funding. The text of the letter is below; the original may be viewed via the link above.

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July 17, 2020

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

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

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,

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 Sepu lveda, 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 Association  
The Actors Fund  
American Academy of Housing and Communities  
The 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

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