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February 18th, 2025

*Senate Standing Committee on Housing,  
Construction and Community Development*  
**New York State Senate**  
250 Broadway, Room 2011,  
New York, NY 10007

Greetings to my esteemed colleagues in the New York State Senate,

As the municipal representative for the Northeast Bronx, I write to you today in support of **S.1457(A)/A.5344** (*2025-2026 Legislative Session*) which calls for adjusting the income eligibility for SCRIE, DRIE, SCHE and DHE where any increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is weighed.

I have the honor of representing Co-op City, which is the country's largest cooperative housing development; authorized under the N.Y.S. Mitchell-Lama program intended for families with modest incomes. This community is also one of the largest NORCs (Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities). Through my office's conversations with residents of this community about how government can work to meet their needs, our esteemed neighbors here in Co-op City circulated a petition supporting the merits of this bill, demonstrating a vested interest in the passage of these legislative measures, to the benefit of those on a fixed income throughout New York State.

Many residents are currently ineligible for supportive programs, as their pensions & social security costs leave them at a calculation just above the current income limits for SCRIE/DRIE. They are on fixed incomes; leaving them at a deficit financially and faced with difficult decisions. Sometimes this includes leaving the community they have lived in, as they can no longer afford the housing costs. Across the city and state we are seeing people and families deal with the increasing and demanding standards of maintaining stable affordable housing.

I also represent some of the City of New York's more densely populated homeowner communities in Allerton, Williamsbridge, Olinville, Eastchester, Edenwald, Wakefield, and the Valley, who, like their neighbors in Co-op City,

also face the challenging balance of maintaining their essential needs on fixed incomes. We must amend the DHE/SCHE income caps, to alleviate the financial burdens faced by homeowners and fortify their wellbeing during periods of housing instability, preserving access for those who have achieved the dream of homeownership.

These legislative measures uphold the integrity of the Northeast Bronx community, which has facilitated homeownership for tens of thousands of diverse middle-class families and seniors. We must do our part to safeguard homeownership through every possible avenue and promote generational wealth for families throughout New York State.

This cost of living crisis endangers affordable housing programs, as they become increasingly inaccessible due to inflation. When residents cannot access these crucial benefits due to re-certification requirements or periods of ineligibility - we are all worse off for it. When people must move from their homes because of the lack of affordability it's a real problem and we lose the history of our neighborhoods with them.

I urge this committee to recognize the unique burdens of seniors and those with disabilities living on fixed incomes and address them with sustainable solutions. Advocating for ongoing adjusted increases for renters, shareholders, and homeowners demonstrates our commitment to working collaboratively with all stakeholders to strengthen our communities.

It is for these reasons that I supported [Reso. 0791](#) in 2023 and [Reso. 0232](#) in 2024 alongside Council Member Gale A. Brewer and support **S.1457(A)/A.5344**. We were able to get this Resolution across the finish line, and ask your governing body to do so as well. This amendment would provide a progressive solution that will meet the needs of residents now and going forward; instead of leaving government in a perpetual game of catch-up to the needs of our constituency. We have a collective opportunity to get this right and we should take this moment to do so.

*Enclosed is a copy of the petitions provided by my constituents echoing the support for this bill.*

Sincerely,



Kevin C. Riley, MPA  
Council Member, 12th District  
Chair, Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises  
Co-Chair, Black, Latino and Asian Caucus  
New York City Council