



News from Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz

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Fifty Five Assembly Members Sign Letter Asking for a Full Restoration of Title XX Funds for Senior Centers

ALBANY, NY- Fifty-five Assembly Members signed a letter circulated by Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (D-Bronx) voicing their support for a full restoration of the reduction in Title XX funds for senior centers in New York City.

Assemblyman Dinowitz serves as Chairman of the Assembly Aging Committee and stated that "senior centers are essential parts of every community in New York City. The Governor's proposal to cut \$25.2 million is unconscionable. The Assembly's decision to restore 75% of that money is an excellent first step but it is only a first step."

The Assembly's One-House Budget resolution contained a restoration of Title XX discretionary funding in the amount of \$27.5 million, which is 75% of the previous year's appropriation. Of the \$27.5 million, New York City is slated to receive (based on a formula) \$18.4 million, which is a reduction of \$6.2 million from the FY 2009-2010 budget. It is expected that a reduction of this size to the Title XX discretionary money to New York City will result in the closure of 15-25 senior centers in New York City.

Assemblyman Dinowitz added "fifty-five of my colleagues cannot be wrong. We must take action to fully restore these programs throughout the State. We joined together in expressing our strong support for a full restoration of these funds. We strongly urge that our strong support for the continued funding for senior centers through the Title XX grant be reflected in the final budget agreement."

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JEFFREY DINOWITZ
Assemblyman 81st District
Bronx County

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIRMAN
Committee on Aging

COMMITTEES
Election Law
Health
Judiciary

MEMBER
Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force

March 25, 2010

Hon. Sheldon Silver
Speaker of the Assembly
932 Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Speaker Silver,

Included in the Assembly's one-house budget resolution for FY 2010-2011 adopted on March 24, 2010 was a restoration of \$27.5 million in discretionary funding to the Title XX block grant, with \$18.4 million being earmarked for New York City. As you are aware, the City of New York has traditionally used its share of the Title XX discretionary funds to provide support for senior centers throughout the five boroughs. In 2009-2010, New York City received \$24.6 million in Title XX discretionary funds.

We feel that it is vital to re-state the essential nature of this funding stream for senior centers throughout New York City. Senior centers provide a much needed destination for seniors in the community by providing daily meals, cultural programs, and socialization which is vital to keep older adults in the community and out of institutional settings.

The restoration included in the Assembly's proposal is an important first step, however it is only a first step. We in the Assembly must take all actions possible to ensure that senior centers in New York City continue to receive the funds necessary to continue their operations. Even the best funded senior centers in New York City are severely under funded. Any reduction in state support will result in the closure of senior centers. The current reduction of \$6 million from the Title XX program will cause at least 15-25 senior centers to close.

In recent days, our offices have been inundated with phone calls from senior citizens that are angry with the Governor's proposal to reduce Title XX discretionary funding. They feel that their way of life is being threatened and their ability to receive a daily meal and a destination may be eliminated with the stroke of a pen. It is our responsibility to advocate for those in our community who are in most need of our assistance. By failing to restore this cut to Title XX we are abdicating that responsibility, which is not what we were elected to do.

Being mindful of the extremely difficult financial situation facing the state, we urge you to keep senior programs in mind in the coming days as the final details of the state budget for FY 2010-2011 materialize. We request that the Title XX discretionary funds be fully restored to

previous year levels to ensure that senior programs are able to continue their operations in this increasingly difficult time.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request. Should you like to discuss this matter in more detail, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Dinowitz

Linda Rosenthal
Marcos Crespo
Carl Heastie
Mike Gianaris
Dick Gottfried
Nelson Castro
Hakim Jeffries
Audrey Pheffer
Alec Brook Krasny
Carmen Arroyo
Keith Wright
Felix Ortiz
Michele Titus
Matthew Titone
Steve Cymbrowitz
William Colton
William Scarborough
Jose Rivera
Bryan Kavanagh
Janele Hyer-Spencer
Deborah Glick
Barbara Clark
Michael Miller
Helene Weinstein
Andrew Hevesi
Jonathan Bing

Vanessa Gibson
Joan Millman
Jeff Aubry
Michael DenDekker
Michael Benedetto
David Weprin
Grace Meng
Peter Abbate
Jim Brennan
Daryl Towns
N. Nick Perry
Rory Lancman
Adriano Espallat
Nettie Mayersohn
Michael Benjamin
Margaret Markey
Joseph Lentol
Micah Kellner
Annette Robinson
Alan Maisel
Karim Camara
William Boyland
Inez Barron
Naomi Rivera
Mike Cusick
Adam Clayton Powell