

Albany Can End Homelessness in New York State February 23, 2017

Under Governor Cuomo, New York State's homeless population increased by 41% between 2011-2015. New York State currently has over 88,000 homeless residents -- the highest ever recorded in the State.

Cuomo's current budget, tax and policy priorities – including the 2% state spending cap – lock our state into an infinite crisis of homelessness and human misery.

New Yorkers deserve better government and better leadership. We know what solutions look like. New York State must:

- **Fully fund and create 20,000 units of supportive housing.** Supportive housing breaks the cycle of homelessness by pairing permanent housing with on-site services for people with a history of substance abuse, and/or who have mental and physical health needs.
- **Fully fund the Homes Stability Support (HSS) program.** HSS is a new statewide rent supplement for low-income families and individuals who are facing eviction, homelessness, or loss of housing due to domestic violence or hazardous conditions.
- **Renew and increase funding for civil legal services** to ensure all New Yorkers have legal representation in housing court to prevent evictions and to ensure homeless New Yorkers aren't discriminated against based off their source of income.
- **Provide rental assistance for low-income HIV-positive New Yorkers living outside of New York City** through a \$20 million pilot project or through the passage of legislation introduced by Senator Hoylman and Assembly Member Hevesi.

Our state has the resources to pay for ending the homeless crisis – but that takes stronger leadership and better government, too.

Right now billionaires, multi-millionaires, Wall Street and big corporations don't pay their fair share of taxes, and working people pay more than our share.

With the right tax and budget policies, we could tackle homelessness, turn the tide on income inequality and poverty, ensure adequate legal representation of all poor New Yorkers and invest in our future. If Governor Cuomo wants to really lead on economic fairness, ending homelessness and turning the tide on poverty, he must:

- **Back the extend-and-expand Millionaires Tax** to capture explosive income gains amongst the super-rich that's been proposed by Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and the Assembly Majority Conference.
- **Close the carried interest loophole** that only benefits hedge funds and private equity billionaires through state legislation introduced by Senator Klein and Assembly Member Aubrey.
- **Support the New York City "Mansion Tax"** proposal, to tax the sale of luxury condos and homes worth \$2 million or more.

These fair-share tax measures would raise nearly **\$6 billion in new revenue** to pay for critical housing and homelessness-prevention programs and address other root causes of poverty.

Ending the unnecessary and harmful spending cap and investing money in meeting human needs will grow our economy, improve our communities and demonstrate real leadership for the nation.