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**ADVOCATES FOR YOUTH, HOMELESS, HUMAN SERVICES RESPOND TO BUDGET DEAL:  
APPLAUD SHARED SACRIFICE AND PREVENTION OF MANY CUTS TO SOCIAL SAFETY  
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**Restoring Cuts to Programs Serving the Most Vulnerable will Save State Money in the  
Long Term**

New York City— Groups representing the homeless, youth and legal and human services responded to the state budget deal, applauding the progressive tax increase and restoration of cuts to cost-effective programs for the neediest New Yorkers.

“Governor Paterson and the Legislature deserve praise for taking some of the pain out of this year's budget by preserving core human services and asking New York's wealthiest residents to be part of the solution. This is true shared sacrifice that will support low-income working parents and their children, older adults living on fixed incomes, and others feeling the brunt of this recession,” said Nancy Wackstein, Executive Director of United Neighborhood Houses. Wackstein applauded the State legislature for significantly restoring a cut to youth services, investing in after school and workforce development programs, keeping child care funding at its 2008-09 level, and restoring a key eviction prevention program that was slated for elimination. “Restoring the homelessness prevention program and nearly all funding for youth services— programs that keep kids off the streets and put them on track for college and careers— is preventive, saves New York money in the long run, and will help ensure the stability of our State in these difficult times.”

“By combining personal income tax reform and federal stimulus dollars, state leaders have found the resources to close a massive budget gap while protecting investments in many programs that produce good outcomes for children. We applaud state leaders for protecting investments in homevisiting, youth services and afterschool programs, as well as specialized health and mental health services for foster children.” added Jennifer March-Joly, Executive Director of Citizens' Committee for Children of New York.

“Without progressive tax reform, there is no doubt that this very painful budget would have been much worse,” said Mary Brosnahan, Executive Director of the Coalition for the Homeless. “By restoring the deep cuts to homelessness prevention, our state leaders have thrown a lifeline to families who are just one lost job or late rent check away from having to enter the shelter system. These are desperately needed and wisely spent dollars that will save money for the state and city.”

While several key human service areas received significant restorations as a result of tax reform, others, including public education, continue to face profound reductions in this budget.

The One New York: Fighting for Fairness Coalition includes over 200 organizations and counting who advocate for and serve New Yorkers needing services such as: AIDS services, child care, child welfare, education, health care, homeless housing, housing, immigrant services, income support, legal services, people with disabilities, senior services, youth services and other vital areas services.