



For Immediate Release: Thursday, February 15, 2007

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Citizens' Committee for Children and Community Service Society Applaud Speaker's Proposal for a Renter's Tax Credit

New York – Today Citizens' Committee for Children and the Community Service Society issued the following joint statement in support of Council Speaker Christine Quinn's proposal to enact a renter's tax credit for New York City tenants.

"Too many families in New York City are being stretched to the limit by high rent. For many families, escalating rents mean cutting back on food, clothing and medicine for their children," said **Gail Nayowith, Executive Director of Citizens' Committee for Children (CCC)**.

"Sound fiscal management and a booming economy have led to record surpluses for New York City. The Mayor has proposed using some of that surplus to provide tax relief to homeowners. But we need to do more than that. Speaker Quinn is right – we need to dedicate some of that surplus to give tenants and their families some relief," said Nayowith.

"After paying rent many low-income families are left with as little as \$32 per week to cover basic needs," said **David Jones, president & CEO of the Community Service Society**. "For most New Yorker's their rent is rising much faster than their salary. Between 2002 and 2005 median rent in New York City went up by 21%. At the same time, median income for renters rose by only 6%. People are cutting back on the basics – food, medicine, and basic household items - to get by," said Jones.

"Renters are in desperate need of relief. We congratulate the Speaker for sticking up for nearly 1 million New York City tenants," said Jones.

Background

In December, 2006 the Community Service Society released *Making the Rent, 2002-2005: Changing Rent Burdens & Housing Hardships Among Low-Income New Yorkers.* The report updates the CSS analysis of rent burdens between 2002-2005 and is available online by clicking [here](#).

Citizens' Committee for Children's *Securing Every Child's Birthright* campaign is dedicated to promoting economic, housing, and developmental security for all New York City children. The campaign aims to advance large-scale initiatives as the best way to solve chronic problems affecting children. Passage of a [Renter's Tax Credit](#) is a key priority of the [Securing Every Child's Birthright](#) campaign.

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