



May 13, 2010

Governor David A. Paterson
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Paterson:

On behalf of the HIV Health and Human Services Planning Council of New York, I write to express serious concern about the impact of the 2010-2011 executive budget on services for People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in New York and also to encourage you to sign the bill capping PLWHAs' contributions toward rent at 30%.

The Planning Council is comprised of community members and governmental representatives and includes physicians, service providers, advocates, and consumers. Members are committed to enhancing the lives of PLWHAs and fear that the budget will have a negative effect, especially at a time when the prevalence of the infection is rising and certain populations including men who have sex with men, women of color, and young people are particularly hard hit. Planning Council members believe that reducing allocations for services for PLWHAs, who are often marginalized and live in poverty, will lead to a decline in health and well-being.

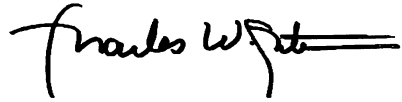
In addition, Planning Council members strongly urge you to sign a bill passed by both the New York State Assembly and the New York State Senate that would provide tremendous assistance to 11,000 PLWHAs in HASA housing. The bill ensures that low-income PLWHAs would contribute a maximum of 30% of their income toward rent. Currently, PLWHAs who participate in the program and have earnings from Social Security, federal disability pay, or salary have to spend all but \$344 per month on their housing. This leaves them with approximately \$11 per day on which to pay for food, medication co-pays, doctor's visit co-pays, and other life-sustaining necessities.

I strongly urge you, therefore, not to cut funding for AIDS services and to cap PLWHA rent contributions at 30%. Individuals living with this illness are

vulnerable and need extra protection in order to continue to access treatment and care services.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles Shorter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a double horizontal line at the end.

Charles Shorter, MSW
Community Co-Chair