



May 26, 2009

Senator Tom Duane
430 State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator Duane:

On behalf of the HIV Health and Human Services Planning Council of New York, I write to thank you for introducing Senate Bill 2664 concerning rental assistance for people with AIDS. Currently, poor people with AIDS in private market apartments are required to pay all but \$330 per month of their income toward rent, leaving them with a total of \$11 dollars per day with which to pay for food, trips to see physicians and other health care providers, utilities, and other items. Senate Bill 2664 would cap the rent contribution for low income people living with AIDS (PLWA) at 30% of their income, thereby leaving them with a bit more money for life's necessities. The present system, under which clients pay substantially more than 30%, leads to rent arrears and eviction. The proposed system would diminish the frequency of eviction and rent arrears and save money for the City.

The HIV Health and Human Services Planning Council of New York is a joint government-community planning body that makes decisions concerning the allocation and distribution of over \$100 million dollars from the federal government for treatment and care of PLWHA in the New York EMA (the five boroughs and Westchester, Rockland, and Putnam counties). Members of the Planning Council include service providers, government representatives, advocates, and consumers, all of whom recognize the importance of decent housing to managing AIDS-related illnesses and the hardship imposed by trying to survive on \$11 per day.

Members of the Planning Council are grateful to you for your leadership on this issue and are eager to see the bill passed this year. Thank you for your

concern for people living with AIDS.

Soraya Elcock

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Soraya Elcock". The signature is written in black ink and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Community Co-Chair

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