

Dear Speaker Heastie:

I am writing to urge you to restore critical funding to the New York State Office for the Aging to protect vital services for older New Yorkers. These services are so important to help older New Yorkers remain active and independent in our communities. Please restore the following budget items in the final, 2017-2018 State Budget:

- Fully restore New York Connects funding to the State Office For the Aging (SOFA) budget and keep a dedicated state funded revenue stream to support NY Connects which serves more than 230,000 older New Yorkers and their families every year;
- Restore the 25% county match exemption under the Community Services for the Elderly (CSE) program to preserve local funding to operate home delivered meals, non-medical transportation, in home services and case management services for the elderly so they can remain independent in their community;
- Support an additional \$24 million for Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP) to provide EISEP to the 15,000 older New Yorkers on waiting lists statewide;
- Restore \$700,000 cuts to fight and prevent Elder Abuse; and,
- Restore Title XX funding for seniors to save the estimated 65 senior centers in New York City from closing.

I am counting on you to Step Up For Seniors in New York State.

Thank you.

*Name: _____

*Address: _____

*Zip Code: _____

Comments:

