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Manhattan Young Democrats Endorses
Home Stability Support

New York is facing a homeless crisis that could soon become much worse — 80,000 families are on the brink of homelessness on top of the more than 150,000 children who are currently homeless statewide. Even worse, last year the New York Times reported that young people between the ages of 18 and 24 are severely undercounted, making these statistics a low estimate. More than that, these numbers fail to illustrate the magnitude of human suffering behind them. The situation is untenable.

That is why the Manhattan Young Democrats emphatically endorse the new Home Stability Support (HSS) proposal put forward by Assemblymember Andrew Hevesi (D-Forest Hills). This new rental subsidy program will help prevent New York families living pay check to pay check from being evicted and becoming homeless, by replacing a patchwork of outdated rental supplement programs with a more comprehensive solution. And not only will it provide essential assistance to fulfill the basic human right to shelter, but it will save taxpayer dollars by directly combating costly shelter expenses.

MYD strongly urges Governor Andrew Cuomo and the NY State Senate to include this proposal in their FY 2017 State Budget. However, we recommend that the Governor also works to address the potential for source of income discrimination by landlords who prefer not to rent to those with housing vouchers. Additionally, MYD implores New York City, and other municipalities in the state, to provide additional rental subsidies beyond the proposed 85 percent of Fair Market Rent covered by HSS, to fill the gap.

This legislation is just one of many necessary changes needed to transform and empower the lives of thousands of New Yorkers through housing, but it's an opportunity for transformation that does not come often. Let's not miss it.