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4May 16, 2008

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6David Hansell, JD, Commissioner

7New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

840 North Pearl Street

9Albany, NY 12243

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11Dear Commissioner Hansell:

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13On behalf of the HIV Health and Human Services Planning Council of New York, I write
14to request that you implement the 30% rule for PLWHAs through administrative action,
15as you discussed at the Albany AIDS Awareness Day in February 2007.

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17As you know, a substantial number of clients receiving HASA benefits also receive other
18forms of public assistance, including SSI, SSDI, or veterans' benefits. Regardless of the
19amount clients receive, they have to pay all but \$330 of their monthly income toward
20their rent. The 30% rule, as articulated in A5473 and S2890, both of which are currently
21pending in the New York State Legislature, would cap the share of rent paid by PLWHAs
22at 30%. Moreover, the tiny amount of monthly income that clients currently retain after
23paying rent -- \$330 -- translates into approximately \$11 per day. With a 30% cap on their
24rent, clients would have more money available to adhere to their treatments and attend to
25their nutritional requirements.

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27As you know, the Planning Council is comprised of service providers, doctors, advocates,
28and people living with HIV/AIDS, all of whom recognize the substantial burden on
29consumers of attempting to live on \$11 per day. Members of the Planning Council join
30me in requesting that you support A5473/S2890 and advocate on behalf of a 30% cap on
31income paid toward shelter. Not having to pay such a sizeable portion of their already
32limited income for rent may enhance the quality of their lives and contribute to their
33general health and well-being.

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35Thank you for your continued support of People Living with HIV/AIDS.

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37Sincerely yours,

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40

41Soraya Elcock

42Community Co-Chair