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**U.S. Representative Carolyn Maloney & New York Coalition of Leading Nonprofits Call on Congress to Increase Funding for Human Services and Oppose the Trump Administration’s Attack on Food Assistance**

*“Federal Tax & Budget Response Team” Coalition Rallies in Long Island City, Queens for a Federal Budget that Reinvests in Critical Services for Low- and Middle-Income Families*

**(New York, NY)** – Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY12) joined a coalition of New York City-based prominent nonprofits today at a rally calling on members of Congress to increase funding for human services — including housing, nutrition, childcare, support for older adults, and more – by supporting the recently-passed [House spending plan](#). The coalition is also urging New York City’s congressional delegation to advance measures to boost economic security for working families and expand affordable housing, and continue fighting against the Trump Administration’s attack on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Food Program (SNAP).

The rally, which was held at the Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement at the Queensbridge Community Center in **Long Island City, Queens**, was led by the Federal Tax & Budget Response Team, a coalition of local nonprofits including FPWA, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New York, UJA-Federation of New York, Fiscal Policy Institute, New York Housing Conference, LiveOn NY, Human Services Council of New York, and United Neighborhood Houses, among others, to advance their federal policy agenda.

When Congress returns from the August recess, the Senate will need to fill in the line-by-line details of agency budgets – using agreed-upon topline numbers – prior to the beginning of the next fiscal year, which begins on October 1st. The coalition is asking New York City-area members to **urge the Senate to follow the priorities established by the House spending plan**.

They are also asking the full New York congressional delegation to **cosponsor the Working Families Tax Relief Act** and the **Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act** to give a boost to 6.5 million New Yorkers and generate over \$500 million annually to finance affordable housing in New York City, helping to create and preserve more than 4,000 additional affordable homes each year, respectively.

Lastly, the coalition is asking Congress to **keep up the fight against the Trump Administration's proposed rules change for SNAP**, which would take away food assistance from 3.1 million struggling Americans, prevent children from getting school meals, and make it harder for states to administer food assistance programs.

"From proposals to cut SNAP, Medicaid, and affordable housing to the recent public charge rule, the Trump Administration has launched unprecedented attacks on our nation's most vulnerable communities and has threatened to take away food assistance from 3.1 million Americans who are struggling to put food on the table," said **U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY, 12<sup>th</sup> District)**. "We must protect the health and welfare of low-income seniors, immigrants, communities of color and other marginalized populations by supporting the Working Families Tax Relief Act and the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act. This year I introduced H.R. 3323, the Nonprofit Relief Act of 2019 to reverse the burdensome costs impacting the charitable sector caused by the Republican Tax Scam and non-profits focus on carrying out their important missions instead of being penalized by unfair tax gimmicks. I am proud to join non-profit leaders again today to continue fighting back against the Trump Administration, and I urge my colleagues to join me and support a budget that reinvests in public benefits to better serve our communities when we return to Congress."

These calls come at a time when [40 percent](#) of New York City residents are already unable to afford a basic standard of living and federal funding for the human services in New York City has [fallen by more than \\$300 million](#) since FY 2010. This decline in funding – largely been driven by the 2011 Budget Control Act (BCA), which set caps on defense and nondefense discretionary funding through 2021 and further reduced funding over time through across-the-board spending cuts known as sequestration – adds pressure for the City to [fill in funding gaps](#).

"FPWA is pleased to provide actionable information – through our recently-launched Federal Funds Tracker – to protect and strengthen federal funding that supports the critical missions of our human-service providing network and which improves the lives of all New York City residents," said **Jennifer Jones-Austin, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director at FPWA**. "The interactive Tracker illustrates the hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding the City's human service budget and sector has lost as a result of federal austerity, and makes it clear why we're here today: we are proud to stand with Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney and our allies in the human-services sector and the communities they serve in urging the President and Senate to follow the priorities

established in the House's spending plan, fighting the Trump administration's latest attack on food assistance, and asking the full New York City delegation to advance the Working Families Tax Relief Act and the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act of 2019."

According to a [recent analysis by FPWA](#) – which analyzes the impact of federal budget proposals on the City's human services budget and sector as they are released – President Trump's FY 2020 budget would cut federal support to some of the City's largest human-services agencies by 18 percent, while the House appropriations bills would boost funding by 8 percent.

For example, Trump's budget would eliminate entirely the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), and the Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and others.

In contrast, the House would increase LIHEAP by 4 percent, CSBG by 5 percent, CDBG by 9 percent, SSBG by 0.3 percent, and HOME by 40 percent. Collectively, the House plan would raise [total discretionary funding](#) \$51 billion above the level enacted for 2019 and \$176 billion above the BCA caps. This increase would begin to restore lost funding for programs for children, job training, health care, and medical research and increase funding for the Census Bureau to conduct the 2020 Decennial Census.

"As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I am proud to have supported a spending plan that reinvests in important services that are critical to many of my constituents and millions across the nation," said **U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY, 6<sup>th</sup> District)**. "I thank FPWA for continuing to highlight the need to fund such critical items as education, housing, food assistance and other initiatives that strengthen working families and the most vulnerable in our society. I join them in urging my colleagues in the Senate and the President to follow the lead that I and my colleagues in the House established."

"Along with our colleagues in the human services sector, the board, staff and participants of Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement urge our local members of Congress to support these proposed first-in-a-decade increases to federal block grants," said **Christopher Hanway, Executive Director at the Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement**. "In a time of unprecedented attacks on low-income, vulnerable and marginalized communities such as the proposed cuts to food assistance, these increases will allow organizations like Riis to serve more community members as they strive for economic sufficiency."

"New York is facing a severe affordable housing crisis. Over 92,000 are homeless across the state including 30,000 children, and millions are one paycheck away from it," said **Jessica A. Facciponti, Director of Policy and Programs, New York Housing Conference**. "We urge Congress to provide sufficient funding and resources, so all New Yorkers have a safe, affordable and decent place to live!"

“Don’t be fooled by any double-talk – there are still rights and wrongs in this world. It is right for Congress to protect the health and welfare of struggling New York families through the Working Families Tax Relief Act, the Affordable Housing Credit, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program,” said **Ron Deutsch, Executive Director, Fiscal Policy Institute**. “It is wrong to refuse to continue sensible, sound programs that allow low-income New Yorkers to utilize their tax dollars and provide children a foothold for a brighter future. Underfunding practical programs, including nutrition assistance, education, and childcare, shortchanges all New Yorkers”

“LiveOn NY remains committed to standing alongside fellow advocates and leaders such as Representative Maloney to fight for a budget that reflects the needs of older New Yorkers and all those whose lives are bettered by a strong, robust human services sector,” stated **Allison Nickerson, Executive Director of LiveOn NY**. “We also stand resolute in our opposition to the continued, systemic attacks on older adults in need of assistance, namely low-income seniors, immigrants, communities of color and other marginalized populations. Both the Public Charge rule and the Categorical Eligibility SNAP proposal are attacks on our communities and will only serve to strengthen our sectors resolve to support those most in need.”

The federal government proposals to cut SNAP, Medicaid, housing and other public benefits, in addition to regulations like public charge that foster fear, represent a blatant attack on people of color, immigrants, and low-income New Yorkers,” said **Carlyn Cowen, Chief Policy and Public Affairs Officer at CPC (The Chinese American Planning Council)**. “In New York City, one out of every four Asian American struggles with poverty. Many of our community members rely on these public programs to make ends meet, and we should be expanding access instead of restricting it.”

The Federal Tax and Budget Response Team have collected nearly 50 signatures from New York City-based human service providers, faith organizations, and policy experts urging Congress to support the coalition's agenda. Here's a link to the letter:  
<https://federalfundstracker.org/publications/reverse-course-in-fy-2020-budget-deal-sign-on-letter/>

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## About FPWA

FPWA is an anti-poverty policy and advocacy organization committed to advancing economic opportunity and upward mobility for low-income New Yorkers. Having a prominent New York presence for nearly 100 years, FPWA has long served New York City's social service sector, providing grants to help individuals and families meet their basic needs, and advocating for fair public policies on behalf of people in need and the agencies that serve them. FPWA's member network of 170 human-service and faith-based

organizations reach more than 1.5 million people in New York's communities each year.  
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