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Immigrants' Day of Action in Albany, March 2, 2010

2010 STATE BUDGET & LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES: A BLUEPRINT FOR JUSTICE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR IMMIGRANTS

Ensure Equal Access to Government Services: Establish statewide inter-agency language access and confidentiality policies similar to New York City's Executive Order 120 and 41. A state language assistance system would reinforce federal mandates and ensure all New Yorkers are able to access services to which they are eligible by requiring interpretation services and translated documents in several key languages. Similarly, a policy that requires state employees to keep confidential immigration status information of residents who interact with state and local government would ensure immigrants would not be afraid to approach law enforcement or access services.

Protect Immigrant Services & Ensure Stimulus Funding Accountability: The NYIC is playing a leadership role in the New York Stimulus Alliance to ensure stimulus funds and services funded with stimulus monies reach communities with the most need, including immigrant New Yorkers. We urge the Governor and NY State Legislature to restore recent cuts to critical services that, if enacted, will make it much harder for New Yorkers to rebound and propel our economy. These cuts would disproportionately impact immigrant communities.

- ***Restore cuts to modest and critical immigrant services*** including the Citizenship Initiative (NYSCI- \$695,000 or 28% cut), New York State Refugee Resettlement Assistance Program (NYSRRAP- \$2.1 million or 55% cut) and Adult Literacy Education (ALE-\$2.6 million or 38% cut). While the total allocation of these programs are a drop in the bucket in the overall state budget, these cuts will result in even fewer immigrants getting the help they need to resettle in the United States, learn English, or become U.S. citizens.
- ***Protect our schools in these difficult economic times and deliver on our state's constitutional obligation to our children.*** Restore \$1.4 billion in school cuts and ensure funding of Foundation Aid to avoid destabilizing our schools. Ensure that New York City and other districts with high English language learner (ELL) populations get their fair share, which includes targeting possible Race to the Top funds towards ELL strategies and strengthening accountability under the Contracts for Excellence to ensure that funds intended for ELLs are targeted to ELL programs and services.
- ***Improve accountability of funding to hospitals through the Indigent Care Pool and ensure sufficient funding for hospitals that care for the uninsured.*** 100% of funding through the Indigent Care Pool should be allocated based on actual care provided to uninsured and underinsured patients. Protect this funding from budget cuts to ensure that the most vulnerable patients have access to affordable care.

Ensure funding support for Haitian-related services, including legal assistance to apply for TPS and social services and other assistance to meet their needs.