



## **Comments on Preconsidered Intro. \_\_\_\_**

January 29, 2024

The Rent Stabilization Association of New York City represents 25,000 diverse owners and managers who collectively manage more than one million apartments in every neighborhood and community throughout the city. We thank the Committee for giving us the opportunity to submit these comments on Preconsidered Int. \_\_\_\_, which would establish a program to assist with changing door locks on the dwellings of survivors of domestic and gender-based violence

The RSA supports those programs that provide safety and security to domestic violence survivors and those at risk. This bill, identical to Proposed Int. No. 534-A of the last session, would establish a program of support services for survivors of domestic violence including a lock change service to assist with changing door locks on the dwellings of survivors of domestic and gender-based violence. Testimony presented last year indicated that an existing city-wide program, HOME+, not only provides locksmith services but also offers security pendants, safety and case management services to support survivor safety in their homes, and referrals to ancillary services as needed. These locksmith services include door and window lock changes as needed in 24 hours. In addition, Safe Horizon also offers Project Safe that also provides, among other things, free lock replacements services where the security of one's home has been compromised.

This bill appears to memorialize programs currently in place. As this program is modified or refined, we suggest that consideration be given to overall building security and suggest building owners/managers be consulted as the security of tenants is one of an owner's primary concerns. In addition, after any changes are made to apartment locks it should always be required that a copy of the key be provided to the building owner, as is usually required for safety reasons under the lease. Finally, this bill does not modify or add language to the administrative code therefore it is unclear precisely what program, agency or budget would be responsible for administering this program.

Accordingly, the RSA offers these comments for your consideration.