



**Committee on Mental Health, Developmental Disability,  
Alcoholism, Substance Abuse and Disability Services**

**New York City Council Resolution 282-A**

**May 20, 2015**

Remarks by Molly Krakowski, Director, Legislative Affairs

Good morning. I'd like to thank for the Committee on Mental Health, Developmental Disability, Alcoholism, Substance Abuse and Disability Services, and Council Member Cohen for chairing today's hearing. Thank you Council Member Rosenthal, and members of the City Council for sponsoring Resolution 282-A.

JASA is a not-for-profit agency serving the needs of older adults in the greater New York area. JASA programming promotes independence, safety, wellness, community participation, and an enhanced quality of life for New York City's older adults. These programs reach over 40,000 clients and include home care, case management services, senior centers, NORC supportive services, home delivered meals, caregiver support, continuing education, licensed mental health, housing, advocacy, legal services, adult protective services, and guardianship services.

JASA supports Resolution 282-A, calling upon the New York State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign, S. 4748 and A. 5565A. This legislation will allow localities to raise the income eligibility limits for Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and the Disabled Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) to any amount up to \$51,000 beginning July 1, 2016. The legislation will also repeal the sunset provisions, which are set to expire on July 1<sup>st</sup>, returning the income eligibility to \$29,000. JASA believes the extension of parity in income-threshold eligibility for the parallel programs of Senior Citizen Homeowners' Exemption (SCHE) and the Disabled Homeowner's Exemption (DHE) will also serve as an important protection to vulnerable homeowners in New York.

JASA's mission is to sustain and enrich the lives of the aging in the New York metropolitan area so that they can remain in the community with dignity and autonomy. At a time when New York City is increasingly unaffordable, older adults are particularly vulnerable. JASA advocated for many years to expand the SCRIE income eligibility limits, and the increase to \$50,000 allowed many older adults previously denied services, to successfully freeze their rent. There are many more seniors eligible for SCRIE than are enrolled in the program; there is a need for expanded outreach to assist more New Yorkers in accessing the benefit. A return to the \$29,000 cap would be detrimental to many older New Yorkers and disabled in New York City currently enrolled in the rent freezing programs.

Expanding SCRIE and DRIE will allow older adults and people with disabilities to remain in the community, and in their homes with affordable rent. New York State can, and should, be a model for aging in place. As such, JASA strongly supports A5565A/S4748 and New York City Council Resolution 282-A.



**Council of New York Cooperatives & Condominiums**  
INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

250 West 57 Street • Suite 730 • New York, NY 10107-0700

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH,  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY, ALCOHOLISM,  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE & DISABILITY SERVICES**

**Wednesday, May 20, 2015**

**SUPPORTING RESOLUTIONS 0282 AND 0410 of 2014**

My name is Mary Ann Rothman. I am the executive director of the Council of New York Cooperatives & Condominiums, a membership organization comprised of housing cooperatives and condominiums located throughout the five boroughs of New York City and beyond. More than 170,000 New York families make their homes in our member buildings, which span the full economic spectrum from very modest housing to some very upscale dwellings. Many of these families own their cooperative or condominium units; but many units are the homes of renters, too.

CNYC testified a little over a year ago in strong support of implementing legislation that raised the income eligibility cap for seniors to qualify for SCRIE, which appropriately provides government help for low and modest income seniors who rent their homes. We suggested at the time that senior home owners deserved parallel treatment. We are very pleased to see that the State Legislature has accepted this recommendation and that it also has legislation to address the needs of people with disabilities.

Today I offer the strong support of CNYC and its members for Resolutions 0282 and 0410, which call upon the State Legislature to raise the income ceilings for eligibility for seniors and disabled persons to qualify for much needed relief in their housing costs.

Thank you for introducing these resolutions and for allowing CNYC the opportunity to express its support.

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. 282,410

in favor     in opposition

Date: 5/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Mary Ann Rothman

Address: 110 Riverside Dr, NYC

I represent: Council of New York Cooperatives &

Address: 250 W 57 St, NYC      Condominiums

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**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor     in opposition

Date: 5/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Molly Krakowski

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: JASA

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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