



Making New York a better place to age

**New York City Council
Committee on Finance, Chair Julissa Ferreras-Copeland
August 8, 2017
Testimony by LiveOn NY**

LiveOn NY strongly supports item number T2017-6474 - Preconsidered Intro which is an act to raise the income eligibility for the Senior Citizen Homeowner (SCHE) and Disabled Homeowner Exemption (DHE) programs. This city initiative relates to state legislation, A7463 (Kavanagh)/S4628 (Savino), which was recently signed by Governor Cuomo.

We thank Mayor Bill de Blasio, Council Member Deutsch, Finance Committee Chair Ferreras-Copeland and the rest of City Council for their support of this bill to date and look forward to the passage of this enabling legislation, which will allow low-income seniors to better afford their homes. This legislation will make New York City a better place to age by increasing the income eligibility for SCHE/DHE programs from \$37,399 to \$58,399.

With many low-income seniors living on fixed incomes it can be difficult to make ends meet and cover household expenses, including property taxes. High cost burdens from housing can lead to difficult and adverse choices such as skipping medication or meals to make ends meet. This legislation, however, will help seniors who have worked to realize the American dream of homeownership continue to age in place surrounded by their community networks.

New York City estimates that raising the income threshold for this vital program will benefit more than 35,000 households city wide. Further, eligible senior and disabled homeowners would receive an average of \$1,750 each year —funds that would likely be reinvested in their communities to afford daily necessities. Moreover, these savings will help the thousands of seniors who struggle to maintain their homes and often face pressure to sell to real estate investors or fall victim to subprime financing.

We encourage City Council to pass Item number T2017-6474 - Preconsidered Intro, an important step in making New York a better place to age.

LiveOn NY and its members across the city are dedicated to making New York a better place to age. Founded in 1979, with a membership base of more than 100 organizations ranging from individual community-based centers to large multi-service organizations, LiveOn NY is recognized as a leader in aging. LiveOn NY's membership serves over 300,000 older New Yorkers annually and is comprised of organizations providing an array of community based services including elder abuse prevention and victims' services, case management for homebound seniors, multi-service senior centers, congregate and home-delivered meals, affordable senior housing with services, caregiver support services, mental health, transportation, NORCs and other services intended to support older New Yorkers. LiveOn NY connects resources, advocates for positive change, and builds, supports and fosters innovation. Our goal is to help all New Yorkers age with confidence, grace and vitality. LiveOn NY also advocates for meaningful policy that promotes livable communities and allows older adults to safely age in place.