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July 7, 2021

Hon. Andrew Joyce, Chairman
Legislative Clerk's Office
112 State St., Room 710
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Chairman Joyce,

The Department of Social Services respectfully requests legislative approval for the following:

18 CRR-NY 304.1 was established to protect homeless individuals from inclement winter weather when "real feel" temperatures decrease to 32 degrees or below. The order requires that homeless individuals are directed and offered to move to shelter during inclement winter weather thus avoiding hypothermia, serious injury and death. It also requires homeless shelters to extend their hours of operation so that those without shelter can remain indoors.

CARES has entered into an agreement with NYS Office of Temporary and Disability for reimbursement for Code Blue services. We are requesting to contract with CARES in order to receive the NYS Code Blue supplement. Funds will be utilized by Albany County Department of Social Services for expenses incurred for motel payments housing individuals who would not have been otherwise eligible for temporary housing assistance if not for Code Blue and to the Council of Churches to operate their seasonal Code Blue 19 bed shelter.

Sincerely,

Michele G. McClave
Commissioner

cc: Dennis A. Feeney, Majority Leader
Frank A. Mauriello, Minority Leader
Rebekah Kennedy, Majority Counsel
Minority Counsel