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March 3, 2020

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:

Local Social Service districts are required to provide temporary shelter to homeless individuals and families. Therefore, authorization is requested to renew an agreement with the Altamont Program, Inc. to provide emergency shelter at The Schuyler Inn. This contract provides for Albany County DSS to place homeless in up to 60 rooms at the Schuyler Inn.

There are several advantages to temporarily sheltering homeless families at the Schuyler Inn rather than other shelters or hotels/motels. Unlike hotels/motels, Schuyler Inn provides families with three meals a day, 7 days a week. The provision of prepared meals, allows us to reduce or eliminate the meal allowance we are required to give to homeless individuals and families while staying at other hotels /motels. In addition, the Schuyler Inn provides case management services with the goal of helping families and individuals learn to live independently, transition into permanent housing and provide a linkage to vocational and employment opportunities.

Sincerely,

Michele G. McClave
Commissioner

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

