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Council member Margaret Chin calls on Governor Cuomo to protect and retain Title XX funds for senior centers in NYC

New York, NY – Today, Council member Margaret Chin joined the New York Coalition for Senior Centers & Services to call on Governor Andrew Cuomo to exempt funding for New York City’s 256 senior centers – “Title XX” funds – from reductions in the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Executive Budget. Council member Chin was joined by members of the New York State Legislature, New York City Council, advocates, and community members, including Brenda Tong, Director of Hamilton-Madison House, and seniors from the Lower East Side and Chinatown.

“Every year seniors across our City are told their centers are in danger of closing due to budget cuts. And every year, local elected officials have to organize, write letters, and demand that the Governor keep our senior centers open. This year, more seniors in my district wrote to Governor Cuomo than any other Council district. This budget dance has to stop. It unfair to our seniors and it is unfair to our communities. When I walk into my local senior center and see seniors playing ping pong, mahjong, and exercising, I know that we are doing the right thing. We are providing an invaluable service that allows older members of our population can stay energized and active. I am here today to tell Governor Cuomo to keep his hands off our senior centers. This is a fight we must win, and it is a fight we will win.”

Council member Chin was one of 39 members of the New York City Council who sent a letter to Governor Cuomo today urging him to retain Title XX funding (please see attachment). The past two Executive Budgets have contained proposals to eliminate the local discretionary portion of Title XX funds, putting 105 senior centers at risk of closing.

