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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

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**New York City Council Votes for Dromm Sponsored Bill to Help
Immigrant Children in Foster Care**

NEW YORK, NY, March 25, 2010 -- Today, the New York City Council voted in favor of a bill sponsored by Immigration Committee Chair Daniel Dromm that will require the Administration for Children's Services to create a plan of action to protect children who qualify for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.

The bill seeks to ensure the children eligible for SIJS (Special Immigration Juvenile Status) are identified as quickly as possible and are receiving all the appropriate benefits. Qualifying for SIJS would enable undocumented children to apply for this status and become permanent residents and obtain a green card.

"Immigrant children deserve the same rights as everyone. This bill will help children in ACS supervision get access to the immigration services they need. We must ensure that children who qualify are given the opportunities they deserve including the ability to be put on a path towards citizenship. I am proud to move this important bill which will protect the rights of immigrant children in foster care," said Council Member Daniel Dromm.

Without a dedicated plan for immigrant services, once a young person turns 21 years of age, he or she becomes ineligible for SIJS status and also loses the opportunity to take full advantage of various services available to lawful U.S. residents.

"As Chair of the Immigration Committee and someone who represents one of the country's most diverse communities, I feel that this piece of legislation will put young immigrants in foster care in a position to succeed," affirmed Dromm.

The legislation would result in an accurate and efficient identification and tracking system in order to coordinate immigration services that would most fully protect the rights of immigrant children.

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