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## Supporting Passage of the New York for All Act (S.2235/A.3506)

**Paul Perez**

*Good evening, Ms Rine*

*I strongly support the passage of the **New York for All Act (S.2235/A.3506)** because, from the work I do every day, I understand how important it is for people to feel safe when they are trying to access help, housing, public services, and justice.*

*Working in housing, community development, and public service, I see firsthand that families are already dealing with enough pressure — rising rents, financial hardship, housing instability, language barriers, and fear of displacement. The last thing people should have to worry about is whether seeking help, reporting a crime, going to court, or interacting with a public agency could put them or their loved ones at risk of civil immigration enforcement.*

*To me, this is about basic humanity, fairness, and public trust.*

*Our immigrant communities are a major part of what makes Erie County and New York strong. They are workers, business owners, parents, neighbors, tenants, future homeowners, and contributors to the culture and economic life of our communities. When people live in fear, entire communities suffer. People become less likely to report unsafe conditions, less likely to cooperate with law enforcement, less likely to seek medical care, less likely to ask for housing support, and less likely to engage with institutions that are supposed to serve and protect them.*

*That does not make us safer. It makes us weaker.*

*The heartbreaking death of **Nurul Amin Shah Alam** should never have happened. A nearly blind, non-English-speaking refugee should not have been left in a situation where he was unable to safely get home, communicate, or protect himself. That tragedy speaks to the real human consequences of systems that operate without enough accountability, compassion, or safeguards for vulnerable people.*

*The **New York for All Act** is important because it creates clear statewide standards. It makes it clear that civil immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility, not the job of local governments or local agencies that already have limited resources and major responsibilities to the public. Local governments should be focused on keeping communities safe, helping*

*families stay housed, supporting public health, and making sure people can access services – not acting in ways that create fear and confusion.*

*I also support this legislation because it brings consistency. Right now, too much depends on where a person lives and how local practices are interpreted. That kind of patchwork creates uncertainty for residents, local governments, and law enforcement. A statewide standard helps establish clarity, accountability, and protection of constitutional rights across New York.*

*At the end of the day, I believe public systems work best when people trust them. When residents trust the government, they are more likely to come forward, ask for help, participate in civic life, and contribute to safer and healthier communities. That is the kind of New York we should be building.*

*For those reasons, I support the **New York for All Act (S.2235/A.3506)** and urge the New York State Legislature and the Governor to pass and enact it.*

*P. Pérez Jr., Commercial Real Estate Salesperson*