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**United Neighborhood Houses
Statement on Mayor Bloomberg's Testimony for the State Assembly's Ways
and Means Committee and the State Senate's Finance Committee**

UNH was pleased to learn of Mayor Bloomberg's support of the Out-of-School Time after-school system in his testimony today before the State Assembly's Ways and Means Committee and the State Senate's Finance Committee.

"Before leaving the subject of education let me add – what happens after the final school bell of the day rings is as important to students as what goes on in the classrooms. That's why this year, we also urge increased State funding for New York City's nationally recognized 'Out of School Time' program. That additional support would be in keeping with the Governor's new 'New York Youth Works' initiative," stated Mayor Bloomberg.

We look forward to his leadership on this critical issue for New York City's vulnerable children and families. OST is currently facing a 50% loss of funding; if this occurs, 25,000 of our City's children will no longer have an after-school program to go to come September. We urge the Mayor to remain true to his expressed commitment today to ensure that OST is a priority in the upcoming budget.