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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

**STATEMENT FROM THE RELEASE AGING PEOPLE IN PRISON
CAMPAIGN IN RESPONSE TO THE PASSAGE OF THE FUND
EXCLUDED WORKERS PROGRAM**

**RAPP CELEBRATES VICTORY FOR UNDOCUMENTED
PEOPLE, CONDEMNS EXCLUSION OF THE FORMERLY
INCARCERATED**

In response to New York State's passage of a fund to bring financial relief to undocumented people excluded from federal resources during the COVID-19 pandemic, Jose Saldana, Director of the Release Aging People in Prison Campaign released the following statement:

“While we are elated for undocumented New Yorkers across the state, who during the entire pandemic provided essential services and performed countless labors that benefited all of us, it is wrong that this critical program does not include formerly incarcerated people. Time and time again, formerly incarcerated New Yorkers are excluded from essential resources that allow us to meet our and our families' basic needs. From housing, to employment, and now a fund for essential workers, we are tired of being left behind. RAPP stands and celebrates with all those who will benefit from this fund, and we will continue to fight in support of dignity and justice for currently and formerly incarcerated people and their families.”

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