



October 4, 2024

Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Re: Three child care bills to make NY child care assistance more fair and equitable

Dear Governor Hochul:

Thank you for championing child care as Governor, and throughout your career as an elected official. Under your leadership as Governor, New York has achieved historic expansions to child care assistance, making tens of thousands more New York families eligible for child care assistance than when you became Governor. We also applaud your commitment to making New York more affordable for families with young children – a matter of great importance, given that families with young children are migrating out of New York at extraordinarily high rates. Specifically, a recent report found that families with young children are [40% more likely](#) to migrate out of New York than families without young children. Critical to stemming the flight of New York families is to ensure broad and fair access to child care assistance.

While New York's child care assistance program is available to more New York families than ever before – thanks in large part to the record state investments made during your time as Governor - there are still many New York families who face unscalable barriers to accessing child care assistance, among them some of New York's lowest income working families.

The undersigned New York organizations representing parents, child care providers, child and family, gender, and social justice advocates, academics, and business leaders – nearly all members of the Empire State Campaign for Child Care – call on you to sign into law three bills that will end outdated and inequitable rules and bureaucratic obstacles and delays that keep too many New York families from accessing assistance.

- **A.8878-A/S.8152-A - to decouple child care assistance from parents' work hours.** This bill will finally end New York's practice of tying parents' exact hours of work to the hours a child can attend child care. This practice effectively makes child care assistance unavailable to the many New York parents who work jobs with inconsistent or rotating schedules, offer only part-time hours, or are part of the growing gig economy. According to a recent report by the [Bipartisan Policy Institute](#), one third of parents nationally don't know their work schedule more than two weeks in advance. Limiting child care hours to work hours is also detrimental to children's wellbeing, denying them the consistent early childhood education and predictable schedules that allow them to thrive. Signing this law will immediately make child care within reach for thousands of New York families already facing the many challenges that come with inadequate income and unpredictable hours – families who are [disproportionately](#) Black, brown and immigrant – and bring New York another step down the path to universal child care.

This bill has been passed three times with bipartisan support by the legislature. It is time to sign this bill and end the practice of tying parents' exact hours of work to accessing child care assistance.

- **A.4099-A/S.4667-A, known as presumptive eligibility.** This bill will allow families quick access to child care assistance while waiting for application processing to be completed, ensuring parents do not lose job opportunities while waiting for care. We cannot expect parents to pursue new employment opportunities if they do not have the ability to access child care assistance quickly. This bill will also afford children more stability and continuity of care, and will benefit child care providers who struggle to keep seats open for families if the wait time for child care assistance approval is lengthy. Presumptive eligibility has already been enacted in Monroe County with success and should be enacted statewide. Presumptive eligibility is also recommended in the recent enacted federal rules as an effective policy that is good for employers, families, and child care providers.

This legislation passed unanimously in both chambers of the legislature and should be signed into law.

- **A.1303-A/S.4924-A, to end the minimum earnings requirement.** This bill will end New York's deeply unfair practice of denying child care assistance to parents whose earnings are on average less than minimum wage, denying assistance to many parents who are small business owners barely paying themselves, and parents hustling in the gig economy who do not always bring in earnings that average out to minimum wage. Denying child care assistance to the lowest income earners makes it even more difficult for these families to be lifted out of poverty and into economic security.

This legislation passed unanimously in both chambers of the legislature and should be signed into law.

These three pieces of legislation, once signed into law, will help thousands of families across the state access child care assistance. **We call upon you to sign these three bills without delay and deliver the access to affordable, high quality child care that so many New York families need.**

Respectfully yours,

Empire State Campaign for Child Care

2-1-1 New York, Inc.

A Continuation of a Dream Daycare (ACOAD)

Adirondack Foundation/ Adirondack Birth to Three Alliance

Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition of New York

Advocates for Children of New York

ALIGN: The Alliance for a Greater New York

All Our Kin

Allegany County Community Opportunities and Rural Development

Alleluia Day Care, LLC

Alliance for Quality Education

Alliance of New York State YMCAs

Alpha Daycare, Inc.

Alphabet Kids Childcare, LLC
 Alphabet Kids Playhouse
 Beyond Child Care, LLC
 Business Council of New York State
 Carefully App
 Catholic Charities Family and Community Services
 Center for New York City Affairs
 Child Care Council of Suffolk
 Child Care Council of Westchester
 Child Care Resource Network
 Childcare Changemakers
 Children's Agenda (TCA)
 Children's Defense Fund - New York
 Children's Village and Harlem Dowling
 Church Women United in New York State
 Citizen Action of New York
 Citizens' Committee for Children of New York
 Committee for Hispanic Children and Families (CHCF)
 Community Action Program for Madison County, Inc.
 Community Daycare Services
 Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies (COFCCA)
 Creative Play Learning Center
 Day Care Council of New York
 Doris M Group Family Day Care, Inc.
 Early Care and Learning Council
 ECE on the Move
 ECE Promiseland
 Education Trust - New York
 El Pastorcito Group Family Daycare
 Empire Justice Center
 Families Together in New York State
 Family Services of Westchester
 Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies (FPWA)
 Feeding New York State
 For the Many
 Ga Ga Group Family Day Care, LLC
 Generation Hope
 Geo's Daycare
 Gloria's Daycare
 Goodwill of the Finger Lakes
 Hands of the Compassion
 Harmony Daycare
 IntegrateNYC
 Jenny's Exploring Minds Daycare, Inc.
 Joallys Family Group Daycare
 League of Women Voters of St. Lawrence County
 Let's Have Fun
 Little Feet Day Care, Inc.

Little Rays of Sunshine Group Family Day Care
Low Income Investment Fund
Mickey's Adventures Day Care
Miracle Day Care
Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, Inc.
MomsRising
Monroe County Public Defender's Office
My Baby Day Care
My Little Lives Group Family Day Care
New York Association for the Education of Young Children
New York Foundling
New York Immigration Coalition
New York State American Academy of Pediatrics
New York State Community Action Association
New York State Council of Churches
New York State Network for Youth Success
New Yorkers United for Child Care
Noor Child Care Services
Northern Rivers Family of Services
One Step Up Group Daycare Corp
ParentChild Plus, Inc.
Parker Academy Child Care and Learning Center, Inc.
Port Washington Children's Center
PowHer New York
Prevent Child Abuse New York
Regional Transit Service (RTS)
Rise Magazine
ROC United
Rochester Housing Authority
Rochester Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative (RMAPI)
Sara McKernan Daycare
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
Strong Children Wellness
Tamika Mapp - District Leader 68th Assembly District, Part D
Tina Day Care, Inc.
Tioga Opportunities, Inc.
Tompkins County Workers Center
UJA-Federation of New York
United Community Center of Westchester, Inc.
United Neighborhood Houses
United Way New York State
United Way of Buffalo and Erie County
United Way of Central New York
United Way of Greater Rochester and the Finger Lakes
United Way of Mid Rural New York
United Way of New York City
United Way of the Dutchess - Orange Region
United Way of the Greater Capital Region

United Way of Tompkins County
United Way of Ulster County
United Way of Westchester and Putnam
Watch Me Grow Daycare Center of Western New York
Westchester Children's Association
Westchester Community College
Westchester Library System
Western New York Child Care Action Team
Western New York Women's Foundation
Wiggle Room
YWCA Cortland

cc:

Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senate Majority Leader
Assemblymember Carl Heastie, Speaker of the Assembly
Senator Jabari Brisport, Chair Senate Children and Families Committee
Assemblymember Andrew Hevesi, Chair Assembly Committee for Children and Families
Senator Jessica Ramos, Chair of Senate Labor Committee
Assemblymember Harry Bronson, Chair Assembly Committee for Labor
Assemblymember Sarah Clark
Brian Mahanna, Counsel to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh, Secretary to the Governor
Dr. DaMia Harris-Madden, Commissioner, Office of Children and Family Services
Roberta Reardon, Commissioner, Department of Labor
Peter Hatch, Deputy Secretary for Human Services and Mental Hygiene
Lisa Vasnani, Assistant Counsel to the Governor
Alyson Grant Tarek, Assistant Secretary for Human Services & Mental Hygiene
Alyson Silkowski, Assistant Secretary for Human Services
Nora Yates, Deputy Commissioner for Child Care Services for OCFS
Emily Meyer, Associate Commissioner for Policy and Strategic Initiatives for OCFS