Empire State
CAMPAIGN FOR CHILD CARE

Statement of the Empire State Campaign for Child Care on the Governor's Veto of A.1303-A (Clark)/ S.4924-A (Ramos), to Eliminate the Minimum Earnings Requirement for Child Care Assistance Eligibility

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We are surprised and deeply disappointed by Governor Hochul's veto of A.1303-A (Clark)/ S.4924-A (Ramos) (to Eliminate the Minimum Earnings Requirements for Child Care Assistance Eligibility); a bill that would make New York more affordable to some of New York's lowest-income, hardest working families. This bill would have ended an exceptionally harmful and unfair rule in New York's child care assistance program that bars parents and caretakers from eligibility for child care assistance if they earn less than the equivalent of the minimum wage. We were thrilled the Legislature passed this law **unanimously**, a testament to the overwhelming, bipartisan support for ending this inequitable rule.

Notably, New York is an outlier in imposing a minimum earnings rule; we know of no other peer states that impose such a rule, and federal law governing child care assistance does not require it.

With this veto, Governor Hochul has chosen to continue to exclude the lowest-income working families from access to child care assistance - a support proven to help families make ends meet, and achieve greater economic security.

With this veto, Governor Hochul has chosen to continue to exclude parents who are small business owners, barely paying themselves—including many child care providers— from receiving child care assistance, and parents working in the gig economy who may not bring in earnings that average out to minimum wage.

With this veto, Governor Hochul has chosen to continue to exclude families who are disproportionately from Black, brown, rural, and immigrant communities - all of whom are over-represented in the informal low-income labor market, from receiving child care assistance.

These families are already enduring the challenges and stress that comes with earning low pay; it is unconscionable to continue to deny them access to child care assistance because they are earning so little.

The Empire State Campaign for Child Care believes ALL families in New York deserve access to high quality, affordable child care, and that broad access to child care is key to making New York affordable for families.

We are grateful to bill sponsors Senator Ramos and Assemblymember Clark for championing this effort to end the exclusion of New York's lowest-income families from child care assistance. We will not give up. **We hope that Governor Hochul will make a good choice for New York families in the New Year and end the minimum earnings requirement in the Executive Budget.**