



Campaign Statement Opposing Federal "Anti-Fraud" Legislation

The Empire State Campaign for Child Care stands in solidarity with the early childhood education workforce and the families they serve. In New York State, this is a workforce that has historically been denied a living wage and basic benefits - a workforce that is predominantly women of color, including a significant share of immigrant women who have long been the backbone of our child care system. We stand shoulder to shoulder with early childhood educators and the families they serve in the struggle for the resources needed to lead a life of dignity and economic security.

Early childhood education is in urgent need of robust, permanent funding and support. It is a system that is unaffordable for families and professionally unsustainable for educators. **The "anti-fraud" legislation does nothing to address the urgent and real needs of the sector and the families it serves.** The current system already has rigorous oversight and accountability mechanisms in place. It is a distraction that poorly masks the systemic lack of investment and care for material, tangible solutions for the American people. Worse, so-called anti-fraud investigations have a well-documented history of disproportionately targeting immigrant communities by treating the very people who care for New York's families as suspects rather than the essential workers they are. What our sector needs is not punitive investigation - it is stable, permanent funding.

We call on our federal lawmakers to stop scapegoating and start investing in sustainable solutions: in fair compensation for the early childhood workforce, in affordable care for families, and in a child care system that reflects our shared commitment to children's futures and the dignity of those who shape them.

The [Empire State Campaign for Child Care](#) is a statewide coalition of parents, child care educators, and advocates who believe that every family in New York State deserves high quality, universal child care and that every child care educator deserves to earn a thriving wage. The campaign was founded in 2017, and advocates at the state and federal levels for investment in child care that best serves the needs of all of New York's families and child care educators.