



October 19, 2023

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

Dear Governor Hochul:

Thank you for championing child care as Governor, and throughout your career as an elected official. Under your leadership as Governor, we've achieved historic expansions to child care assistance, making tens of thousands more New York families eligible for assistance for high-quality child care. Yet, there are still many New York families who face unscalable barriers to accessing child care assistance, among them, families where parents work unpredictable or fluctuating hours.

The undersigned New York parents; child care providers; child and family, gender, and social justice advocates; provider networks; academics; and labor and business leaders – nearly all members of the Empire State Campaign for Child Care – call on you to immediately sign into law **S.5327A/A.4986A - to decouple child care assistance from parents' work hours**. Once signed, this law 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 or part-time hours, or are part of the growing gig economy. A recent report by the [Bipartisan Policy Institute](#) reports that nationally, a third of parents don't know their work schedule more than two weeks in advance; this practice is 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 put 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 move New York another step on the path to universal child care.

Notably, last year, you signed an earlier version of the bill (**S.6655A/A.7661**). Empire State Campaign for Child Care members publicly celebrated the passage of the bill, believing it would end New York's detrimental practice of tying parents' exact hours of work to the hours a child can attend child care.

Unfortunately, the prior legislation proved to be a source of disappointment and frustration for parents, child care providers, and advocates. The bill was drafted to allow child care assistance outside of parents' hours of work only if supported by **local** funds. Given that the longstanding financing structure of New York's child care system does not segregate funding by source (local, state, or federal), it is nearly impossible for localities to create the infrastructure to fund this initiative locally. As a result, the prior bill is unlikely to result in meaningful expanded access to child care. Notably, there does not appear to be a good policy reason to limit the prior bill to local funds, as nothing in the law governing federal child care assistance requires New York to only provide federally-funded child care assistance during the exact hours a parent is engaged in work or another approved activity.

We urge you to sign and implement the decoupling bill **S.5327A/A.4986A** without delay to finally break down this unnecessary barrier that for too long has prevented many parents who work fluctuating or part-time hours from accessing high-quality child care. Taken together with the budget wins secured in 2023, this law will move New York decisively down the path to creating a system that provides affordable, quality child care for more New York families, and sustainable compensation for child care providers.

Respectfully yours,
Empire State Campaign for Child Care

1199SEIU Child Care Corporation
A Better Balance
A Rich Mind Family Daycare
Adirondack Birth to Three Alliance at
Adirondack Foundation
Adirondack Community Action Programs,
Inc.
Advocates for Children of New York
All Our Kin
Alliance for Quality Education
Alliance of NYS YMCAs
AspireHope NY Inc.
Bank Street College of Education, Learning
Starts at Birth
Brandi Alexander's Daycare
Brightside Up, Inc.
Brooklyn Community Services
Brooklyn Heights Synagogue Preschool
The Business Council of New York State,
Inc.

Chautauqua Lake Child Care Center
Child Care Council of Dutchess and
Putnam, Inc.
Child Care Council of Suffolk, Inc.
Child Care Council of Westchester
Child Care Solutions, Inc.
Child Development Council
The Children's Agenda
Children's Aid
Chinese American Planning Council, Inc.
Citizens' Committee for Children of New
York
Color Outside of the Lines Education
Consultants
Committee for Hispanic Children &
Families
Community Action Planning Council
Community Daycare Services, Inc
Cornell ILR-Buffalo Co-Lab
Country Kids Childcare Center, LLC

CSEA Local 1000
CSEA VOICE Local 100A
Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation, Inc.
Day Care Council of New York
Diane Abram
Directors as Leaders (DAL)
Discovery PitStop
Early Care & Learning Council
ECE on the Move
The Education Trust--NY
Educational Alliance at the Manny Cantor Center
Elizabeth Palley
Empire Justice Center
Families On the Move of New York City, Inc.
Families Together in New York State
Family Enrichment Network
FPWA
Generation Hope
Gladys Jones
Grandma's Day Care
The Grow With Us Daycare Center
Grow With Us Daycare Center Inc.
Harlem Road Children's Center, Inc.
Harmony Daycare
HCMoneyball
Henry Street Settlement
Hudson Guild
The Innovative Daycare Corp
Integrated Community Planning of Oswego County, Inc.
Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo, Inc.
Johnson's Daycare Inc.
Jumpstart for Young Children
Kids Paradise Day Care
Kids R Us Childcare
League of Women Voters of St. Lawrence County

Legal Momentum, The Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund
Little Lukes Childcare
Little Peeps Childcare LLC
Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW
Long Island Families Together
Low Income Investment Fund
Luisa's Daycare.
Mansie Meikle
Marks of Excellence
Metro Community Development Corporation
MomsRising
My First Step Enrichment Programs
My Precious Angels Childcare
New Creation Family Daycare
New York Civil Liberties Union
New York Immigration Coalition
New York State Network for Youth Success
New York Union Child Care Coalition
Nontraditional Employment for Women
Now She Speaks
Nurah's Nook Childcare
NY Association for the Education of Young Children
Ossining Children's Center
Our Family Childcare
Paper Planes Early Learning Center
Parker Academy Child Care and Learning Center Inc.
Planned Parenthood Empire State Acts
PowHer New York
Precious Little Hearts Child Care
Precious People Daycare
Prevent Child Abuse New York
Raggedy Ann and Andy Daycare
Ripen With Us Child Care Center
Rise
Rita Griffin
Robin Hood
ROC-NY

RWDSU
Santos Day Care 1
Schuyler Center for Analysis & Advocacy
Sonya Kuykendal
Southern Adirondack Child Care Network
St. Lawrence Child Care Council, Inc.
Storytime Child Care
St. Nicks Alliance
Storytime Child Care, Inc.
Temple Israel Nursery School

Time to Learn Daycare, Inc.
Toot-Toot Daycare, Inc
United Community Centers
United Federation of Teachers
United Neighborhood Houses
Westchester Early Childhood Directors'
Association
Western New York Child Care Action Team
Wiggle Room
WNY Behavior Collaboration
WNY Women's Foundation
Women's Housing and Economic
Development Corporation
Yaks Youth Center, LLC

cc: Senator Jabari Brisport
Assemblymember Andrew Hevesi
Elizabeth Fine, Counsel to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh, Secretary to the Governor
Suzanne Miles-Gustave, Acting Commissioner, NYS Office of Children and Family
Services
Roberta Reardon, Commissioner, NYS Department of Labor
Jihoon Kim, Deputy Secretary for Human Services and Mental Hygiene
Nora Yates, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Child Care Services, NYS OCFS
Lisa Vasnani, Assistant Counsel to the Governor
Emily Meyers, Assistant Secretary to the Governor for Human Services & Mental
Hygiene
Alyson Grant Tarek, Assistant Secretary for Human Services & Mental Hygiene
John DiVito, Legislative Coordinator, NYS OCFS

*Empire State Campaign for Child Care is a statewide campaign dedicated to achieving
equitable, universal child care in New York State*