



**Statement of the Empire State Campaign for Child Care Executive Committee
Regarding the Report of an Unlicensed Child Care Program for
Assemblymembers in the Legislative Office Building**

Finding and affording high quality child care is an overwhelming and persistent challenge for nearly all New York families in every corner of the state. And the challenges are particularly formidable for parents working outside traditional Monday through Friday, 9 to 5 hours, and those who work variable schedules, like New York State legislators. It is therefore not surprising to hear that there is demand among legislators for child care while they are working long, often unpredictable hours at the Capitol, many of them far away from their homes.

The tremendous child care challenges facing New York families, including Assemblymembers, is why the Empire State Campaign for Child is dedicated to achieving universal, high quality child care for ALL New York families – no exceptions. Since 2017, we have been working doggedly to create a well-resourced, equitable system with the capacity to meet the real-life needs of all New York's beautifully diverse families.

We cannot achieve that goal without a strong and steady commitment from New York leaders to create a system that is of high quality and accessible and available to all.

This is why, in this year's budget, we called for no less than \$889 million for the child care workforce, and an expansion of child care assistance to immigrant children excluded due solely to their immigration status. We urge state leaders to ensure these full investments are in the final budget.

We also urge state leaders to join us in advancing our legislative priorities which feature two bills that are specifically designed to ensure access to child care assistance for parents who work non-traditional or fluctuating hours. One would require counties across the state to pay a higher reimbursement rate to child care providers offering care in the evenings, overnight, and on weekends to cover the higher costs associated with providing such care (S.4079 (Brisport) / A.1734 (Clark)). Another would end the current practice of providing child care assistance only during the exact hours a parent is working, even if the parent's work schedule is varied (A.4986 (Hevesi)/ S.5327 (Brisport)).

New York State Legislators are in the company of hundreds of thousands of New York parents facing tremendous child care challenges. We are grateful to the many lawmakers who have long been child care champions, and urge those who have not yet joined the fight for universal child care in New York to become leaders alongside them – so all the state's families can find and afford the high-quality child care they need.

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