



NYS Senate and Assembly Pass Legislation That Will Allow More Families to Access Full Time Child Care

Last week, the New York State Senate and Assembly took an important step to complete the work of last year's session by passing S.5327A (Brisport) /A.4986A (Hevesi). Once signed by Governor Hochul, this bill will finally end the outdated restriction on families receiving assistance that currently ties the hours a child can attend child care to the exact hours parents are working or pursuing their education. This practice is harmful to children, makes life needlessly harder for low-income parents, and causes uncertainty for child care providers' staffing and finances.

In a time when families are looking to New York State to ease their struggles in accessing the child care they need, this simple measure will have an immediate impact. Parents with fluctuating schedules in sectors such as retail, restaurants, healthcare, and the gig economy will benefit from the certainty that this legislation will provide. Having the choice to receive full time care will allow parents to better support their families and ensure their children can receive consistent early education on their terms. It also means that child care providers won't have to scramble with little notice to increase their staffing based on week-to-week schedule fluctuations while providing peace of mind that they will receive payment for full time care. For young children, it will promote consistency and continuity of early care and education, which is associated with improved mental health and lasting positive impacts on their social, cognitive, physical, and language development.

The Empire State Campaign for Child Care applauds Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Children and Families Chair Jabari Brisport for their leadership in passing this legislation in the Senate and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Children and Families Chair Andrew Hevesi, and Assemblymember Jennifer Lunsford for their leadership in passing this legislation in the Assembly. Thank you to all members of the State Legislature who voted for this bill.

By signing this legislation without delay, Governor Hochul can immediately break down a significant barrier families face when trying to access child care assistance. This bill represents one of many commonsense, necessary policy changes needed to build a modern, equitable, universal child care system for all of New York's children, families, and child care educators.

Empire State Campaign for Child Care is a statewide campaign dedicated to achieving equitable access to child care in New York State. Founded in 2017, ESCCC counts in its membership nearly 100 organizations, along with hundreds of parents and child care providers from every corner of New York State. Every day, our membership is growing.