



THE LEGISLATURE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

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

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
President Pro Tempore and Majority Leader of the New York State Senate
Legislative Office Building
188 State Street, Room 907
Albany, NY 12247

The Honorable Carl Heastie
Speaker of the New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building
188 State Street, Room 932
Albany, NY 12248

April 7, 2025

Dear Governor Hochul, Speaker Heastie and Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins:

We are writing to urgently express our deep concern that tens of thousands of New York families are on the brink of losing access to childcare under the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). Thanks to your joint leadership, our state has made tremendous progress toward expanding affordable child care, enrolling thousands of children in programs crucial for their development, and providing families with a true lifeline. We cannot allow our state to walk back that progress and we need your joint leadership yet again to ensure we are not ripping kids out of care and taking programs away from families who desperately need these services.

In New York City, approximately 60,000 children will lose their childcare vouchers over the next fiscal year absent a significant infusion of new funding. The reimposition of work requirements for cash assistance recipients, coupled with an increase in voucher rates, has set the stage for a looming crisis that

threatens the stability of New York City families, businesses, and communities. Without intervention - an even larger number of families than the enrollment in Universal Pre-K will be left without childcare in the year ahead - a devastating setback for working families.

This is not just a New York City problem. In fact seven rural counties have already stopped enrollment, at least two more anticipate closing enrollment in April, and two more by June; they will not restart enrollment until October 2025, when their next block grant allotment is issued. New counties are added to this list nearly every day. To be very clear, what this means is that right now, families in Essex, Fulton, Hamilton, Madison, Saratoga, Warren and Washington counties are going to recertify for child care assistance - as they must every year - only to learn they will not be able to receive assistance because the funding has run out. These families suddenly must come up with an extra \$1500 a month - or more, to cover the costs of child care themselves, piece together a child care arrangement with friends or family, or drop out of the workforce.

The disruption of losing child care assistance for families - or not being able to access it in the first place - cannot be overstated. Child care programs will also face severe setbacks. Many programs - particularly home-based providers - are very small. Just losing one family with two or three children if the family loses CCAP and can't cover the tuition out-of-pocket could put a program in financial jeopardy.

Looking ahead to the next federal fiscal year (October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026) – the period covered by the CCAP funds included in the 2025-26 NYS Budget – it is anticipated that nearly every county in the state will run short of CCAP funds at some point during that period if funding for the program is level with last year, as proposed in the Governor's budget. This is anticipated because enrollment rates are steadily rising around the state, and in 2024, CCAP rates were increased. What we don't yet have the data to know is the severity of the shortfall in the rest of the state, but there will be a shortfall in many communities.

Families at risk of being denied new or ongoing CCAP are low-income working families not guaranteed CCAP. Thousands of working families earning less than 85% of SMI (\$108,000 for a family of 4), but who are not on TANF cash assistance, are at risk of losing a benefit that saves them \$18,000 a year in tuition if they have one child in care, and much more if they have more than one. We cannot abandon these families.

While we were only recently made aware of this looming crisis, there is still time for us to act. If we fail to fill this budget shortfall, we will be failing tens of thousands of New Yorkers. Thank you for your time and attention to this critical issue and your continued leadership. We would be happy to provide any additional information or meet to discuss this further.

Sincerely,



Andrew Hevesi
Chair, Children and Families Committee



Jabari Brisport
Chair, Children and Families Committee



Khaleel Anderson



Scott Bendett



Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn



Ken Blankenbush



Karl Brabenec



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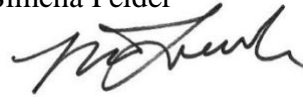
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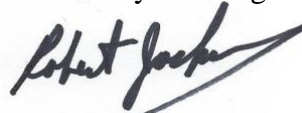
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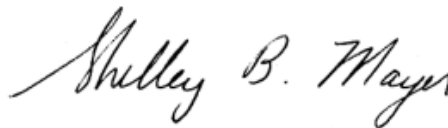
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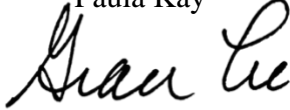
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