



THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

June 29, 2020

To: The Honorable U.S. Senators and Congressional Representatives of New York

Dear New York State Congressional Delegation:

We are New York State legislators from all parts of the state. We are also parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles. As you know all too well, New York has been dealt a devastating blow by the COVID-19 pandemic. Recovery will be long and difficult, particularly for those communities hit the hardest, among them communities of color, and families with children. One of the fundamental public services families will need to enable them to reengage with the labor market and regain economic stability is safe, high-quality, affordable child care – a service on the brink of collapse after being weakened by decades of underinvestment, followed by the sharp blow of the pandemic.

**We are looking to you to ensure the next COVID-19 federal relief bill includes at least \$50 billion for the survival of the nation’s (and New York’s) fragile child care industry so that it is able to serve the many families in New York and across the nation who will need child care to participate in the recovery.**

We deeply appreciate the initial \$3.5 billion investment made through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act in emergency funding provided through the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) to support child care providers and the families they serve. New York has committed part of its share of the funds to child care scholarships for some essential workers and to ensure that providers have the cleaning supplies and PPE to more safely care for children. The Governor’s Child Care Availability Task Force recently sent recommendations to the Governor for how to use the remaining funds to safely provide child care to more families as New York begins to slowly reopen.

We also applaud the \$7 billion included in the HEROES’ Act passed by the House earlier this month. This is an important proposal; but it is not enough. Data collected by New York State reveals that 25% of child care providers across the state have closed, and will need substantial support to reopen. New survey data from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) reports that half of programs nationwide would not survive a closure of more than two weeks without support.

Our nation’s child care system is primarily tuition-based. In New York, the average cost of full time infant care is more than \$15,000 a year. As New York parents return to work, these costs – nearly impossible for most families to cover in the best of times – may rise at a moment when

many families will be facing salary a roll-back in hours or pay. This is because providers will be facing substantially higher costs associated with keeping facilities clean and disinfected, and to operate at reduced enrollment to allow for social distancing. Providers will have asked parents to pay more in the absence of substantially new public investment; there is a good chance parents will be unable to cover even pre-pandemic costs.

Accordingly, **we join educators, providers, and child advocates from around the nation and request that Congress provide at least \$50 billion in total funding dedicated to child care to offer immediate relief to families, providers, educators, and the many critical businesses that employ parents during this crisis.** Allowable uses of this funding must include (but not be limited to):

- Paying providers to cover ongoing operating costs while they are closed for public health reasons, or open but with reduced enrollment to serve children of essential workers or to allow for proper social distancing;
- Providing essential duty pay for child care workers in programs that are remaining open during the crisis;
- Providing materials, resources, training and other public health supports regarding health and safety practices;
- Eliminating copayments or tuition for families during this public health and economic crisis while ensuring that providers are still paid;
- Funding and paying substitute educators where needed and available;
- Purchasing materials for providers that cannot afford or find supplies.
- Providing virtual learning opportunities when appropriate and mental health supports for families; and
- Support for helping child care providers navigate small business loan application processes.

We are grateful to have your partnership always, but even more so now. New York cannot recover from this crisis alone.

Sincerely,

Hon. Michaelle C. Solages  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Julia Salazar  
New York State Senate

Hon. Crystal People-Stokes  
New York State Assembly Majority Leader

Hon. Tim Kennedy  
New York State Senate

Hon. Ellen Jaffee  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Andrew Hevesi  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Nily Rozic  
New York State Assembly

With Support from the listed members of New York State Legislature:

Hon. Fred Thiele  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Steve Englebright  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Phil Ramos  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Steve Stern  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Kimberly Jean-Pierre  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Taylor Darling  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Judy Griffin  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Aravella Simotas  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Michael Miller  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Rodneyse Bichotte  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Simcha Eichenstein  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Joseph Lentol  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Felix Ortiz  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Jo Anne Simon  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Nick Perry  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Rachel May  
New York State Senate

Hon. Todd Kaminsky  
New York State Senate

Hon. James Skoufis  
New York State Senate

Hon. Gustavo Rivera  
New York State Senate

Hon. Andrew Gounardes  
New York State Senate

Hon. Ronxanne Persuad  
New York State Senate

Hon. Kevin Parker  
New York State Senate

Hon. James Sanders, Jr.  
New York State Senate

Hon. John Lui  
New York State Senate

Hon. Liz Krueger  
New York State Senate

Hon. Diane Savino  
New York State Senate

Hon. Leroy Comrie  
New York State Senate

Hon. Brad Hoylman  
New York State Senate

Hon. Luis Sepulveda  
New York State Senate

Hon. Monica Martinez  
New York State Senate

Hon. Jamie Williams  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Kevin Thomas  
New York State Senate

Hon. Deborah Glick  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Neil Breslin  
New York State Senate

Hon. Inez Dickens  
New York State Assembly

Hon. George Borrello  
New York State Senate

Hon. Al Taylor  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Dan Quart  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Rebecca Seawright  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Michael Blake  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Nathalia Fernandez  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Jeffrey Dinowitz  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Amy Paulin  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Steven Otis  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Thomas Abinanti  
New York State Assembly

Hon. David Buchwald  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Sandy Galef  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Aileen Gunther  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Kevin Cahill  
New York State Assembly

Hon. John McDonald III  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Patricia Fahy  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Marianne Buttenschon  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Donna Lupardo  
New York State Assembly

Hon. William Magnarelli  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Harry Bronson  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Monica Wallace  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Charles Lavine  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Billy Jones  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Clyde Vanel  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Sean Ryan  
New York State Assembly

Hon. Latoya Joyner  
New York State Assembly