

November 21, 2024

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

Dear Governor Hochul,

As mothers serving in the New York State Legislature, we write with a shared commitment to ensuring that every family in our state has access to the quality, affordable child care they need to thrive. As working mothers, we understand firsthand the challenges that families face in balancing careers and caregiving, and we know how crucial it is to have policies in place that support families and children.

Child care is more than a workforce issue—it is a lifeline for families, an investment in the future of our children, and a key to unlocking the full potential of our economy. We are at a critical juncture, and now, more than ever, we must take bold action to make child care accessible and equitable for all. That is why we are urging you to sign three bills that passed with bipartisan support in both the Assembly and Senate. These bills are essential to removing the barriers that prevent families from accessing the child care they need and would help thousands of New York families become newly eligible for the Child Care Assistance Program.

Statewide presumptive eligibility would allow families quick access to child care assistance while waiting for an often lengthy application process to be completed so parents do not lose job opportunities and children experience more continuity of care. Although there was opt-in presumptive eligibility language included in last year's budget, new federal guidelines released allow for the use of Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) block grant dollars for this new standard, taking the burden off local counties. This is a win-win for families and children and our local governments.

Decoupling would make it easier for working parents, including those in the gig economy or sectors like retail with fluctuating schedules, to access child care by decoupling child care assistance coverage hours from a parent's work hours.

Ending the minimum earnings requirement will end New York's deeply unfair practice of denying child care assistance to parents whose earnings are on average less than minimum wage. This requirement denies assistance to many parents who are small business owners barely paying themselves, and parents hustling in the gig economy who do not always bring in earnings that average out to minimum wage.

Together, these bills will remove the unnecessary hurdles that prevent families from accessing child care, empowering more parents—especially mothers—to participate fully in the workforce, contribute to our economy, and provide a secure, enriching environment for their children. These

bills will benefit more working families and the New York economy by creating more opportunities for parents to thrive, ensuring that all children, regardless of their family's income, receive the care and support they deserve.

As New York's first mom Governor, we know that you understand the profound importance of these bills, and the necessity to reduce barriers to accessing child care for parents. We urge you to sign A.4099-A/S.4667-A (presumptive eligibility), A.8878/S.8152, (decoupling), and A.1303-A/S.4924-A, (ending the minimum earnings requirement) into law and make New York a leader in supporting working families and investing in the next generation.

**Respectfully,**

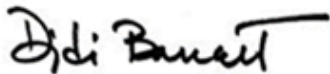
Mothers in the New York State Legislature



Jessica González-Rojas  
Member of Assembly, 34th AD



Sarah Clark  
Member of Assembly, 136th AD



Didi Barrett  
Member of Assembly, 106th AD



Yudelka Tapia  
Member of Assembly, 86th AD



Phara Souffrant Forrest  
Member of Assembly, 57th AD



Karen McMahon  
Member of Assembly, 146th AD



Jennifer Lunsford  
Member of Assembly, 135th AD



Michaelle Solages  
Member of Assembly, 22nd AD



Nikki Lucas  
Member of Assembly, 60th AD



Rebecca Seawright  
Member of Assembly, 76th AD



Grace Lee  
Member of Assembly, 65th AD

Karines Reyes  
Member of Assembly, 87th AD



MaryJane Shimsky  
Member of Assembly, 92nd AD



Dana Levenberg  
Member of Assembly, 95th AD



Patricia Fahy  
Member of Assembly, 109th AD



Chantel Jackson  
Member of Assembly, 79th AD