



MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

A.10822 Jaffee / S.08833 Ranzenhofer

We are child and family advocates, social justice organizations, and faith leaders urging the Legislature to support legislation to strengthen New York’s child tax credit by (1) expanding the credit to cover children under age four who are currently excluded from the credit and (2) doubling the credit for these very young children. Adoption of this legislation would place New York first in the nation to provide an enhanced credit for young children. It would also correct an illogical flaw in the state’s current child tax credit: the exclusion of children under age 4—the very children most likely to live in poverty and to experience severe and enduring negative impacts as a result.

Modest income transfers to low-income families—particularly families with young children—can yield tremendous benefits for children and their families, including improved physical, emotional and behavioral health, higher educational attainment and increased future earnings.^{1,2} The benefits are particularly great, and most acutely needed, in families with very young children. This is the case because families with young children face poverty at greater rates than other families, and because stress and hunger can impair brain development, which is most rapid when children are very young, and can lead to lifelong deficits.³

This innovative legislation would complement and build upon the steps the State has already made to target investment in our youngest New Yorkers in its path-breaking First 1,000 Days on Medicaid initiative. Further, because the Empire State Child Credit is one of a very few supports available to the many hard-working mixed status immigrant families, it is particularly important for these families that their youngest children are covered.

Strengthening the Empire State Child Credit by passing A.10822/S.08833 presents an opportunity to help set young New York families on a path to economic security, and their children on a path to success.

Signed:

Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy, Kate Breslin, President and CEO
Adirondack Foundation and Adirondack Birth to Three Alliance, Cali Brooks, CEO
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Early Care & Learning Council, Meredith Menzies Chimento, Executive Director
The Education Trust – New York, Ian Rosenblum, Executive Director
Fiscal Policy Institute, Ron Deutsch, Executive Director
Healthy Families New York – Clinton and Franklin Counties, Esther Piper, HFNY Director
National Center for Children in Poverty, Heather Koball, Ph.D., Interim Director
New York State Council of Churches, Rev. Peter M. Cook, Executive Director
Prevent Child Abuse New York, Timothy Hathaway, Executive Director
United Way of New York State, Brenda Episcopo, President and CEO
Westchester Children’s Association, Cora Greenberg, Executive Director

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¹ Christopher Wimer, Jane Waldfogel, David Harris, & Irwin Garfinkel. (2016, March 16). Doing More for Our Children Modeling a Universal Child Allowance or More Generous Child Tax Credit. Retrieved January 8, 2018, from <https://tcf.org/content/report/doing-more-for-our-children/>

² White, G. B. (2015, September 27). A Small Boost in Family Income Makes a Big Difference for Kids. The Atlantic. Retrieved from <https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2015/09/income-inequality-poverty-children/407512/>

³ Education.com, & Arizona Department of Education. (2010, February 19). Starting Smart: How Early Experiences Affect Brain Development | Education.com. Retrieved January 8, 2018, from <https://www.education.com/reference/article/smart-early-experiences-brain-iq/>