



## Empire State Campaign for Child Care

**June 10, 2020**

**For Immediate Release**

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### **CHILD CARE IS ESSENTIAL PRESS CONFERENCE & VIRTUAL RALLY** **We ask you to join us at 8:50 a.m.**

**When:** Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.

**Who:** More than 700 child care providers and parents from across New York State

**Speakers:**

- Paulette Guerrero-Duran, parent, Staten Island
- Vonetta Rhodes-Osi, parent and former child care provider, Buffalo
- Alicia Marks, Director, Marks of Excellence Child Care, Amityville
- Rebecca Gonzales, Director, Time to Learn Day Care, Bronx
- Senator Velmanette Montgomery, Chair, Senate Committee on Children and Families
- Assemblymember Ellen Jaffee, Chair, Assembly Committee on Children and Families
- Senator Roxanne Persaud (invited), Chair, Senate Committee on Social Services
- Assemblymember Andrew Hevesi, Chair, Assembly Committee on Social Services
- Senator George Borrello, Ranking Member, Budget & Revenues
- Assemblymember Michaelle Solages, Chair of the Taskforce on Food, Farm & Nutrition Policy, and Chair-elect of the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian Legislative Caucus.

**Where:** Via Zoom:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_zGDW9T2AQqCZ5UEXrGOMqg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zGDW9T2AQqCZ5UEXrGOMqg)

**Background:** Child care and afterschool care are essential to our State's recovery. Every day, more New York parents are being called back to work - but New York still has no plan for safely scaling up child care.

We call upon New York State to immediately invest the remaining \$134M in CARES Act Funds and \$88M in committed state afterschool funds to enable child care and afterschool to safely ensure there is care for New York children this summer and beyond.

We call upon our Congressional delegation to ensure that the next federal relief package contains at least \$50 billion for child care to assist states to safely reopen and recover in the wake of the pandemic. New York cannot recover from the devastating losses and impacts of the epidemic alone.

Existing and future funds must be used to:

- Create a child care stabilization fund to help providers cover the higher costs of operating at reduced capacity and following new public health protocols – all essential to ensuring the safety of New York’s children and families
- Pay for emergency child care services, PPE, and supplies
- Cover parent co-pays / ensure child care is affordable to parents who have experienced furloughs/reduction in hours, pay, benefits