

**MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT**

S.8421/ A.10513

***The Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy urges the Governor to sign legislation to report data on child welfare preventive services to increase their utilization and effectiveness.***

The Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy is a 148-year-old statewide, nonprofit organization dedicated to policy analysis and advocacy in support of public systems that meet the needs of disenfranchised populations and people living in poverty. Schuyler Center supports enactment of S.8421/ A.10513 to establish annual reporting requirements on child welfare preventive services.

Many families, disproportionately families of color, are under ever increasing stress due to the health, mental health, social, and economic challenges that COVID-19 presents. Effective preventive services can give families and communities the tools they need to weather these challenges. Collecting data on preventive services for children and their families will better enable New York to determine what mental health, economic, social and other preventive services are proven to strengthen families and keep them together.

Reporting requirements will include: the total number of children and families receiving preventive services; the average length of time preventive services were provided for each child or family; a descriptive list of all services and their rates of utilization in each local social services district that utilize preventive services funding; the number of children who entered the foster care system that received preventive services in the year prior to entry.

Reporting data on child welfare preventive services can help New York State strengthen families. We urge the Governor to support families by signing S.8421/ A.10513.

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