



December 16, 2020

On behalf of the New York State Child Welfare Coalition, we want to thank Assembly Member Hevesi, Senator Persaud for sponsoring, and Governor Cuomo for signing into law, A10513 / S8421-A: An Act to amend the social services law, in relation to reporting data on child welfare preventive services.

Community-based child welfare preventive services are an essential component of New York's commitment to racial equity, serving Black and Latinx communities over-represented in the child welfare system and hardest-hit by the COVID-19 crisis. Because most CPS calls are allegations of neglect—not abuse—these kinds of supports can address the root cause for concern and have helped to reduce the number of children in foster care significantly in our state.

Understanding the availability and utilization of these supports is more important now than ever to ensure that all families across the State have access to services that help keep families together.