

Memorandum in Support

S.6706-B/A.7582-A

*The Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy urges passage TODAY of S.6706-B (Brisport)/ A.7582-A (Hevesi) – Allowing Social Services Districts to Expand Child Care Subsidy Eligibility. This bill will give counties the flexibility to use federal funds to provide subsidy to families earning more than 200% of FPL, but who are still struggling. In New York City alone, we estimate **an additional 15,000 families** would qualify for subsidies. Thousands more around the state would also qualify.*

Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy strongly supports the **S.6706-B (Brisport)/ A.7582-A (Hevesi) – Allowing Social Services Districts to Expand Child Care Subsidy Eligibility.**

The 2021-2022 New York State Budget ensured that all counties across the state provide child care subsidies to working families earning up to 200% of FPL (\$43,920 for a family of 3). This was a critical step for many counties. **HOWEVER, the budget did not go far enough,** particularly in high cost counties, like New York City. In fact, currently at least [24 of NY's 62 counties](#) are already serving families earning 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL). This bill will give counties the flexibility to use federal funds to provide subsidy to families earning more than 200% of FPL, but who are still struggling.

Consider a family of three earning \$50,000 a year with one child in care – without this bill, they would have to shoulder the full cost of child care – easily **\$15,000 per year (\$1,250/ month)**, driving that family into near poverty. With this bill, the family cost would drop to a more manageable **\$2,800 per year (\$233/month)**. In New York City alone, we estimate **an additional 15,000 families** would qualify for subsidies. Thousands more around the state would also benefit.

New York State has the federal funds to cover these costs – at last count it has nearly \$2.3 billion in child care stimulus funds that are intended to be used quickly and to help New York families and child care providers recover from the impacts of the pandemic. This bill will remove a barrier to getting these funds to New York families that so desperately need them.

This bill will help New York parents, particularly the [tens of thousands of women](#) who have been forced to drop out of the workforce due to the impacts of the pandemic, to get back to work; and help some of the [hundreds of thousands](#) of New York families pushed into near poverty and poverty by the pandemic regain economic security. It is essential that New York pass this law **this session**; New York families and child care providers need assistance now.

We urge passage of **S.6706-B/A.7582-A** immediately to get New York families back to work, and New York children into high-quality child care.

June 10, 2021