

# SCHUYLER CENTER FOR ANALYSIS AND ADVOCACY

## 2025 Top End of Session Policy Priorities

### CHILD CARE



#### ***Statewide childcare workforce living wage fund — A.492A (Hevesi)/S.5533 (Brisport)***

Creates a permanent child care fund to increase child care worker compensation. The child care workforce is among the lowest paid occupations in New York, contributing to high turnover and staffing shortages, and deepening the state’s child care capacity shortfall. The average wage for the child care workforce (94% women, and more than 53% people of color) is approximately \$38,000. In contrast, the median annual salary for full-time New York workers is approximately \$69,000 per year. The solution as recommended by the Governor’s Child Care Availability Task Force was for New York to “[i]mplement a permanent line of funding for the child care workforce,” because “[o]nly with permanent funding will child care programs be able to recruit and retain educators,” families be able to find care, and the goal of universal child care realized.

#### ***Mandating Waitlists for Child Care Assistance — A.7145 (Walker)/S.1926 (Persaud)***

New York has made historic expansions to the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) in recent years, leading to a significant increase in the number of New York families receiving assistance – rising 35% last year alone. The increase in enrollment is outpacing funding for the program leading to shortfalls in many communities, yet many do not keep waitlists. This bill would require all counties to maintain waitlists, and collect basic information to inform future state efforts to ensure there are adequate resources reaching all communities to meet child care assistance needs.

### EDUCATION

#### ***Solutions Not Suspensions — A.118 (Solages)/S.134 (Jackson)***

Across New York during the 2023-2024 school year, 137,511 students were suspended at least once – including 8,331 children in grades Pre-K to 3. This equates to 957,934 school days lost to suspension. This loss of learning impacts Black, Latino, disabled, low-income, LGBTQ+ students and students in foster care at higher rates than their peers. New York must commit to using solutions to student behavior that do not deprive young people of an education.



### CHILD WELFARE AND YOUTH JUSTICE

#### ***Family Miranda Rights — A.1234 (Walker)/S.551 (Brisport)***

This legislation would require caseworkers to advise parents and caregivers of their rights at first contact with Child Protection Services (CPS). Ensuring that parents and caregivers are made aware of their rights at the beginning of a CPS investigation will empower parents to make informed decisions, making CPS investigations less traumatizing for the whole family.

## HEALTH

### ***Expands Where a Dental Hygienist Can Practice – S.3157 (May)/A. 2341 (Paulin)***

This legislation would increase access to essential dental care by allowing dental hygienists to provide dental care in settings accessible to New Yorkers who often face barriers to oral health services such as federally qualified health centers, long-term care facilities, schools, domestic violence shelters, among other locations. By allowing dental hygienists to practice in these settings, fewer New Yorkers will be forced to endure the pain and health problems that come with poor oral health and untreated dental problems.



### ***Allows Parents to Apply Fluoride Varnish Under Supervision of a Provider — S.6759 Fernandez***

This legislation authorizes parents and legal guardians to apply fluoride varnish to a child's teeth under the prescription and protocols of a licensed healthcare provider, expanding access to this safe and effective preventive service, particularly for children at highest risk of dental disease.



## CHILD POVERTY REDUCTION AND FAMILY WELLBEING

### ***New York For All – S.2235 (Gounardes)/A3506 (Reyes)***

This legislation prohibits state and local agencies and employees from engaging in federal immigration enforcement, sharing personal information with immigration authorities, or cooperating with immigration authorities unless presented with a valid judicial warrant. By doing so, the bill aims to preserve and build the trust of immigrant New Yorkers with state and local law enforcement, schools and social services agencies so they feel they can safely call 911 or cooperate with criminal

investigations in their communities, or access essential social services to which they or their children are entitled without being targeted by immigration enforcement. This legislation is particularly important for immigrant families with children, to encourage them to continue participating in public spaces and utilizing public programs for which they are eligible without fear of being separated from their families due to immigration enforcement or deportation.

## ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES FOR CHILD AND FAMILY WELLBEING

- ***Provide Automatic Rate Increases for Child Care Providers – A.1001-A (Clark)/S.4472-A (Ramos)***
- ***Maternal Health and Dignity in Consent — A.860 (Rosenthal)/S.845 (Salazar)***
- ***Anti-Harassment in Reporting — A.66 (Hevesi)/S.550 (Brisport)***
- ***End Automatic Referrals to Child Support Collection — A.1036 (Kim)/S.3660 (Hoylman-Sigal)***
- ***A.2218 (Clark)/ S.1994 (Ramos) — Eliminate Minimum Earnings Requirements for CCAP Eligibility***
- ***Right to Remain Silent Act — A.2620 (Hevesi)/S.878-A (Bailey)***
- ***Youth Justice and Opportunities Act — A.5293 (Walker)/S.4330 (Myrie)***



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Policy Priorities**