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More than 75 Organizations Dedicated to the Wellbeing of New York Children and Families Call on State Leaders to Pass *New York for All* Bill

ALBANY, N.Y. (Jun. 5, 2025) — In a letter to NYS Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Heastie, more than 75 organizations have urged the passing of the **New York for All (S.2235 Gounardes/A.3506 Reyes) bill** to support New York's immigrant children and families. (*Read the full letter and list of undersigned organizations.)*

As immigration enforcement increases, the impacts of family separation on children can be devastating, resulting in long-term health and psychological effects. It also results in fewer families accessing the programs and benefits for which they are eligible. The *New York for All Act* will help to address these concerns by:

- Clearly delineating the line between New York State and county programs and federal immigration enforcement.
- Providing direction to all New York state and local agencies and personnel to refrain from engaging in any federal immigration enforcement activity except what is explicitly required by governing federal law.
- Ensuring that state and municipal resources are not diverted to support immigration enforcement efforts that often cause devastating harm to families and children.

"No child should go to school each day scared they could be separated from their parents, and no parent should have to live with the stress that their own government could tear their family apart," said **State Senator Andrew Gounardes**. "These experts have dedicated their lives to helping families thrive, so they know firsthand how devastating Trump's deportation dragnet can be. My New York for All Act ensures we put safety for families above politics so all children and parents have a chance to live full, healthy lives here in New York."

"As the federal government focuses on detaining and deporting our immigrant neighbors, it is up to New York State to act decisively to protect and support our immigrant children and their families—this year. We urge the New York State Legislature to pass, and Governor Hochul to sign, the New York for All Act (S.2235/A.3506) to ensure that New York State is the best place for all families, regardless of immigration status, to live, work, learn, and grow," said **Dede Hill, Director of Policy at the Schuyler Center.**

"Children and families previously unconcerned about being separated in the City of Rochester thanks to our Sanctuary City policy now live in fear," said **Larry Marx, CEO of The Children's Agenda**. "The Trump administration filed a federal lawsuit against Rochester, NY, alleging its sanctuary city policy in place since 1986 is suddenly illegal somehow. But instead of expensive court fights, we need to make clear by passing the New York For All Act that all families deserve to remain intact, and no family should ever fear a knock on their door from authorities of their adopted city, state or country."

"Child well-being is greatly compromised when families live in constant fear of detention or deportation," said **Raysa S. Rodriguez, Executive Director of Citizens' Committee for Children of New York**. "With more than one in three children in our state growing up in immigrant households, the passage of the New York for All Act is essential to safeguarding child and family well-being. This legislation ensures that state and local resources are used to strengthen communities, not tear them apart, and allows families to access education, healthcare, child care, and other critical supports without fear. We urge lawmakers to act now to affirm that New York is truly a place where all children and families can thrive."

"New York is stronger because if its diversity, and its vibrant immigrant community," said **Khin Mai Aung, NYS Director of Children's Defense Fund New York**. All New Yorkers, including immigrants and refugees, should be able to access state and municipal services to the fullest extent possible without fear that their information will be shared with federal immigration authorities. Furthermore, our state and municipal resources should be used to support services for New Yorkers – and especially families and children in need, rather than for immigration enforcement."

Approximately 37% of New York children—more than 1,374,000 children—live in immigrant families. And an estimated 324,400 children across New York State live with an undocumented parent or family member. Even short-term separations can have lasting impacts on children's health and development. Additionally, sweeping, non-targeted immigration enforcement threatens to cause a surge in children entering the child welfare system due to the detention or deportation of a caregiver.

The organizations that signed the letter are dedicated to the health and wellbeing of New York's children, families, and communities and expressed concern about the impacts of family separation—through detention and deportation—on New York State's children. Organizations signing on to the letter represent child care centers, educators, health care providers, anti-hunger advocates, faith leaders, housing advocates, child welfare advocates, and other advocates for children and families.

The full sign on letter can be read on the Schuyler Center website at: https://scaany.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/NY4All-Sign-on-Letter.pdf

About the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy

Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy is a leading statewide, nonpartisan, policy analysis and advocacy organization based in Albany, NY. Schuyler Center works to shape policies to improve health, wellbeing, and human services for all New Yorkers, especially children and families impacted by poverty and inequitable systems. Learn more at www.scaany.org.

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