



Schuyler Center Applauds Signing of Bills that will Protect Children and Support Strong Families

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As advocates for policies that support children and families experiencing poverty, [Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy](#) applauds Governor Hochul for signing into law several bills that will bring opportunity to New York's children and families.

Across New York State, thousands of families face the barriers of poverty-related hardships—from unsafe housing to food insecurity, from a lack of access to high-quality child care to an inability to provide for their children's basic needs. By signing these bills into law, Governor Hochul has taken steps to address those hardships and open pathways to a bright future.

Schuyler Center has championed these bills and worked alongside the Governor and Legislature to advance legislation that strengthens and supports families.

Governor Hochul has demonstrated her commitment to make New York State more affordable for families, and we look forward to continuing this work together in 2026.

Specifically, Schuyler Center applauds the signing of bills in the areas of:

Child Care

This new law (S.1926 Persaud / A.7145 Walker) requires counties to maintain waitlists for child care assistance. 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 25% 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 of families trying to access assistance but unable to due to a shortage of state funds. This bill would require all counties to maintain waitlists of eligible families and collect basic information to inform future state efforts and ensure there are adequate resources to meet child care assistance needs in every community.

Oral Health Access

The Governor signed a bill expanding the settings where a dental hygienist can practice (S.3157 May / A.2341 Paulin). This new law improves 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, and 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.

Child Welfare

Governor Hochul signed the Anti-Harassment in Reporting Act (S.550-A Brisport / A.66-A Hevesi) into law, an important step toward transforming New York's child welfare system. Beginning in mid-2026, adults who call the State Central Register to report child abuse or neglect will be required to confidentially provide their name and contact information. Anonymous calls to the State Central Register are sometimes made maliciously—by domestic abusers or others trying to punish a parent—and are more likely to ultimately be unsubstantiated, meaning there is insufficient evidence of abuse or neglect. This change will protect children from intrusive, harmful, and unnecessary investigations.

Governor Hochul also signed into law S.3781 Brisport / A.5434 Hevesi, requiring the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) to provide luggage to young people entering, living in, moving between, and exiting state custody, placement, or guardianship. The 13,000 children in New York's foster care system often have no option but to use trash bags to carry their belongings when moving among placements. The new law also requires annual reporting on whether young people in state custody do and do not have luggage.

As New York communities face threats to federal funding and safety net programs, thoughtful state actions focused on those with limited resources can ensure New York's families are supported and that New York State is the best place for a child to learn, play, grow, and participate in a vibrant future.

About the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy

For more than 150 years, Schuyler Center has led advocacy rooted in compassion, evidence, and belief that government should work for the greater good. Schuyler Center's work acknowledges the historic racism woven throughout shared systems, and advocates for public policies and investments that seek to address inequities while improving health, welfare, and human services for all New Yorkers, with a focus on children and families experiencing poverty.

Schuyler Center's advocacy has advanced policies that reduce child poverty, build a universal child care system, promote child health and wellbeing, and transform the child welfare system. Schuyler Center achieves its goals through creative and detailed policy analysis, coalition building, and advocacy with elected officials, agency executives, policymakers, and stakeholders. Learn more at scaany.org.