**New York** *Founded in 1869*



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**MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION**

**A.7145 (Walker) / S.1926 (Persaud)**

*AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to requiring social services districts to maintain a waiting list of certain families applying for child care assistance*

The New York Public Welfare Association (NYPWA) **OPPOSES** legislation A.7145 (Walker) / S.1926 (Persaud). The NYPWA is the professional organization of local departments of social services, whose responsibilities include responsibility for services for children and families in counties. Our local departments of social service workers, in relation to this bill, work to make eligibility determinations to either grant or deny subsidies.

This bill amends the social services law to require all local districts to keep waiting lists of eligible applicants for child day care subsidies and outlines specific reporting requirements to the governor and legislature. The bill also requires all local districts to keep data on the income levels of families applying for childcare subsidies, including those that were denied and those that were accepted.

Recently, the eligibility thresholds expanded to eighty-five percent of the state median income standard, so more families have become eligible for subsidies. While this is a notable and allows families to keep more money in their pockets, the number of children receiving subsidized care has risen dramatically in the past two years. 2025 has proved to be the tipping point where participation has begun to exceed allocations to districts.

The requirements in this bill for our local districts are overly laborious and cumbersome. Local Social Service Districts already have staffing problems, and the workers work hard and work with diligence. However, consuming their time reporting on voluminous data sets leaves less time to make eligibility determinations, and move people through the process quicker. Furthermore, over fifteen districts so far already have waiting lists, so requiring local districts to keep waiting lists is duplicative.

The Office of Children and Family Services has seen that waitlists are no longer avoidable but creating a new set of guidelines for every county does not account for the unique needs and capacities of each community, and the district staff. What the program needs is additional funding, but the lack of that funding to support the program control needs to be restored to the districts in terms of determining eligibility thresholds, parent fee, authorization periods and paid absences.

While this bill has passed both the Senate and the Assembly, we urge Governor Hochul to veto A.7145 (Walker) / S.1926 (Persaud), and work with the legislature on finding solutions to child care which include additional funding mechanisms.