

July 1, 2010

Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousin
805 Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12247

Assemblymember Brian Kavanagh
431 Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12248

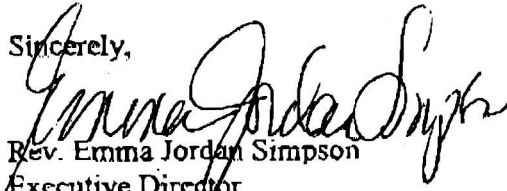
Dear Senator Stewart-Cousins and Assemblymember Kavanagh,

On behalf of the Children's Defense Fund-New York I am writing to thank you for introducing *The Child Health Plus and School Meals Enrollment Coordination Act of 2011*, (S.4057A/6/7515A) and ensuring its passage in the Senate and Assembly. As a result of this legislation, thousands of children will be able to efficiently apply for public health insurance by using their School Meal proof of enrollment as proof of income.

Currently, all children already enrolled in the School Meals Program are eligible for either children's Medicaid or Child Health Plus, depending on their income and immigration status. Based on recent data, an estimated 43,000 children enrolled in School Meals in New York were eligible but not enrolled, in public health insurance. There are an estimated 260,000 uninsured children who are eligible for public health insurance in New York but not enrolled. This legislation would make public health insurance enrollment significantly easier for eligible families who are having difficulty providing income documentation proof and would help New York state serve some of our state's most vulnerable children.

We thank you for your commitment to increasing coverage and making it easier for families to navigate the enrollment and renewal pathways to New York's public health insurance programs. New York continues to be a leader in ensuring its children are insured, because of your advocacy. As always, we value your leadership and look forward to our continued work together.

Sincerely,


Rev. Emma Jordan Simpson
Executive Director

cc: Kate Glazer