



November 6, 2025

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of the State of New York
Executive Chamber
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Subject: Urgent Action Needed to Address the Child Care Assistance Program Funding Crisis

Dear Governor Hochul:

We are writing to urge you to take immediate action to address the growing funding crisis in New York's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), a critical program that helps working families access affordable, reliable childcare.

CCAP is designed to help low-and-moderate income parents stay in the workforce, pursue education, and provide their children with a safe and nurturing environment. Unfortunately, for many New Yorkers, the program is falling short. More than twenty counties across the state, particularly outside New York City, have already exhausted their CCAP allocations, leaving qualified families on waiting lists or being denied assistance altogether.

This problem is not due to a lack of commitment from local officials or families; it stems from a lack of sustainable state funding. The recent expansion of CCAP eligibility created a predictable increase in demand. Without a corresponding increase in funding, the program cannot meet its goals.

While the FY 2026 Budget included a \$400 million increase in childcare funding, the \$50 million allocated to counties outside New York City is far from sufficient to meet the scale of need. Delays

in distributing these funds have further exacerbated the crisis, forcing families to make impossible choices - cutting work hours, leaving jobs, or relying on unstable care arrangements.

When parents cannot access reliable childcare, businesses lose workers, local economies suffer, and children miss out on the early learning experiences that set them up for success.

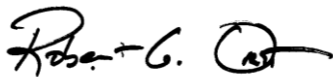
As work begins on the FY 2026–27 Executive Budget, New York has an opportunity to stabilize and strengthen CCAP by:

- Providing sufficient funding to close current shortfalls;
- Developing a long-term, data-driven strategy to ensure funding keeps pace with demand; and
- Simplifying eligibility and streamlining the application process.

In the meantime, we urge you to take immediate steps to ensure counties can access the funds already allocated to CCAP so that this essential program can continue supporting New York’s working families.

By providing adequate, sustainable funding and simplifying program administration, we can ensure every eligible family receives the childcare support they need to work, grow, and thrive.

Sincerely,



Robert G. Ort
Senate Minority Leader
62nd District



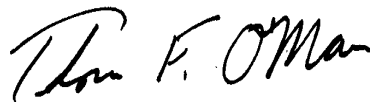
Senator Jake Ashby
43rd District



Senator Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick
9th District



Senator Rob Rolison
39th District



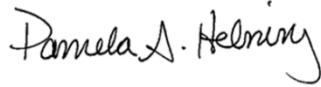
Senator Tom O'Mara
58th District



Senator Anthony Palumbo
1st District



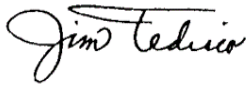
Senator Peter Oberacker
51st District



Senator Pam Helming
54th District



Senator George Borrello
57th District



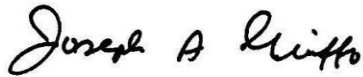
Senator Jim Tedisco
44th District



Senator Patrick Gallivan
60th District



Senator Alexis Weik
8th District



Senator Joseph Griffo
53rd District



Senator Mario Mattera
2nd District



Senator Mark Walczyk
49th District



Senator Steve Rhoads
5th District