



January 2, 2026

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
New York State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

We write to you concerning disturbing reports of widespread fraud involving taxpayer dollars in the State of Minnesota, including schemes that reportedly involved sham daycare centers and other illegitimate entities. These revelations raise serious concerns about the vulnerability of publicly funded programs to abuse.

Considering these developments, we urge you to immediately retain an independent private professional services firm to conduct a comprehensive audit of comparable programs in New York State. Such an audit is necessary to ensure that public funds are being distributed solely to legitimate organizations and eligible individuals, and to identify and address any instances of fraud, waste, or abuse.

Given that New York administers comparable programs involving billions of taxpayer dollars, it is imperative that proactive measures be taken to ensure similar abuses are not occurring here. As recently as July, the U.S. Department of Justice uncovered a \$68 million Medicaid fraud involving a Brooklyn operator who paid illegal kickbacks through social adult day care centers. There is little reason to believe this case represents an isolated incident. Accordingly, we urge you to immediately commission a comprehensive, independent audit of New York's analogous programs to ensure that public funds are distributed solely to eligible individuals, families and legitimate service providers and any bad actors are referred to law enforcement.

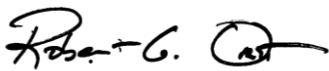
Given that New York administers similar programs involving billions of taxpayer dollars, it is imperative that we take proactive steps to ensure such abuses are not occurring here.

This issue is especially urgent given that dozens of counties across New York have already exhausted their allotted state funding for the Child Care Assistance Program. At a time when resources are strained, it is essential that available funds are protected and directed exclusively to those who truly need assistance. Moreover, with reports that your administration may advance a proposal for universal pre-kindergarten in the upcoming legislative session, ensuring these programs are efficient, transparent, and free from fraud should be a shared priority for all New Yorkers.

We appreciate your attention to this critical matter and look forward to your prompt action to safeguard taxpayer dollars and restore confidence in these essential programs.

We thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Robert G. Ort  
Senate Minority Leader  
62<sup>nd</sup> District



Senator Anthony Palumbo  
1<sup>st</sup> District



Senator Pam Helming  
54<sup>th</sup> District



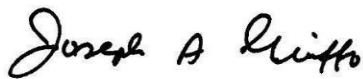
Senator George Borrello  
57<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Daniel G. Stec  
45<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Alexis Weik  
8<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Joseph Griffo  
53<sup>rd</sup> District



Senator Mario Mattera  
2<sup>nd</sup> District



Senator Jake Ashby  
43<sup>rd</sup> District



Senator Peter Oberacker  
51<sup>st</sup> District



Senator Steve Rhoads  
5<sup>th</sup> District



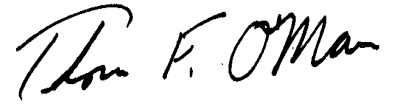
Senator Steve Chan  
17<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick  
9<sup>th</sup> District



Senator William Weber  
38<sup>th</sup> District



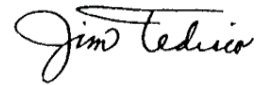
Senator Tom O'Mara  
58<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Mark Walczyk  
49<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Rob Rolison  
39<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Jim Tedisco  
44<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Jack M. Martins  
7<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Dean Murray  
3<sup>rd</sup> District