



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.

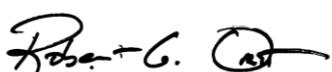
Given that New York administers similar programs involving billions of taxpayer dollars, it is imperative that we take proactive steps to ensure such abuses are not occurring here.

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. Ortt
Senate Minority Leader
62nd District



Senator Anthony Palumbo
1st District



Senator Pam Helming
54th District



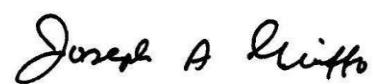
Senator George Borrello
57th District



Senator Daniel G. Stec
45th District



Senator Alexis Weik
8th District



Senator Joseph Griffo
53rd District



Senator Mario Mattera
2nd District



Senator Jake Ashby
43rd District



Senator Peter Oberacker
51st District



Senator Steve Rhoads
5th District



Senator Steve Chan
17th District



Senator Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick
9th District



Senator William Weber
38th District



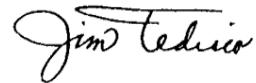
Senator Tom O'Mara
58th District



Senator Mark Walczyk
49th District



Senator Rob Rolison
39th District



Senator Jim Tedisco
44th District



Senator Jack M. Martins
7th District



Senator Dean Murray
3rd District