



August 21, 2026

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

Dear Governor Hochul:

We are writing to urge you to increase funding for New York's Rape Crisis Centers, Domestic Violence Centers and Child Advocacy Centers and to work with our conference to establish a more stable and predictable funding stream for these vital centers.

Across the State, rape crisis centers, domestic violence centers and child advocacy centers are experiencing significant funding cuts when demand for their services remains high. These cuts are due to an outdated procurement process that pits centers against each other, fighting for funding that is not keeping up with demand.

It is being reported that of the state's 48 child advocacy centers, 36 applied for funding - six were denied funding altogether and 21 received substantial decreases in funding.¹ According to a survey by the Alliance Against Sexual Assault, of the 42 rape crisis centers that responded to the survey, 30 said they are losing funding and 29 said that they would have to reduce staff because of the funding cuts.²

These cuts are devastating to some of the most vulnerable New Yorkers. We find it deeply troubling that this year's record setting State Budget of \$277 billion, \$23 billion more than last

¹ Lisa, Kate. *Lawmakers push Hochul to Backfill Cuts for Crime Victims, Child Advocacy Centers*. City and State. 17 August 2026.

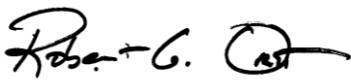
² Russo, Mellisa. *"I was Raped": NYC Assemblymember Opens Up About Cuts to Survivor Programs*. New York 4. 18 August 2026.

year's budget, did not include sufficient funding for critical centers that help survivors, including children, of sexual assault and domestic violence.

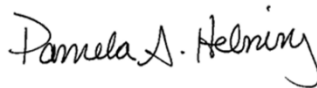
It is also our belief that the State must reconsider how these centers are funded going forward. The current competitive procurement process creates fiscal uncertainty for these centers and makes it difficult for them to plan for staffing and maintain critical services. When it comes to services provided to our most vulnerable populations, we must ensure a stable, dedicated and fair funding stream.

We implore you to work with our conference to find new and predictable funding streams to ensure rape crisis centers, domestic violence centers and child advocacy centers receive the necessary and sustainable funding to continue the important work they do for sexual assault and domestic violence survivors.

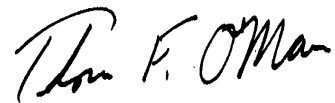
Sincerely,



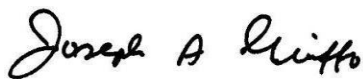
Robert G. Ort
Senate Minority Leader
62nd District



Senator Pam Helming
54th District



Senator Tom O'Mara
58th District



Senator Joseph Griffo
53rd District



Senator Rob Rolison
39th District



Senator Jake Ashby
43rd District



Senator George Borrello
57th District



Senator Daniel G. Stec
45th District



Senator Steve Chan
17th District



Senator Dean Murray
3rd District



Senator Anthony Palumbo
1st District



Senator Alexis Weik
8th District



Senator Steve Rhoads
5th District



Senator Jack M. Martins
7th District



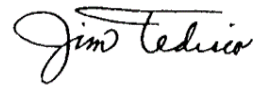
Senator Patrick Gallivan
60th District



Senator Peter Oberacker
51st District



Senator Mario Mattera
2nd District



Senator Jim Tedisco
44th District



Senator William Weber
38th District



Senator Mark Walczyk
49th District



Senator Andrew Lanza
24th District



Senator Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick
9th District