



COMMUNITY DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL 30

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RESOLUTION #159

IN SUPPORT OF UNIVERSAL CHILDCARE

WHEREAS childcare is a public good; and

WHEREAS childcare must be free and accessible by all residing in New York State; and

WHEREAS access to free and quality childcare should not be conditional on a families' income or proof of income; and

WHEREAS families should be empowered to choose the childcare program that meets their children's needs; and

WHEREAS childcare teachers and providers must be compensated as their peers in public education; and

¹WHEREAS childcare for an infant or toddler in New York could cost a family over \$2,600 a month or \$31,000 annually—more than the cost of college tuition at CUNY or SUNY; and

WHEREAS sixty-four percent of New York State families live in a “childcare desert,” where there are either no available childcare providers or far too few providers to meet families' needs²; and

WHEREAS particularly in areas like New York City, Westchester, and Long Island, real estate prices are unaffordably high, and landlords charge rents that prohibit childcare providers from offering adequate care; and

WHEREAS much of the childcare workforce lives in poverty with “65% of childcare providers receiv[ing] such low wages that they are eligible for several social safety net programs such as food stamps or Medicaid” ³; and

1 <https://www.nysenate.gov/sites/default/files/childcareourreport.pdf>

2 Supporting Families, Employers & New York's Future: An Action Plan for a Strong and Equitable Child Care System: Final Report of the Child Care Availability Task Force. Accessed December 9, 2021, <https://ocfs.ny.gov/reports/childcare/Child-Care-Availability-Task-Force-Report.pdf>

3 <https://ocfs.ny.gov/reports/childcare/Child-Care-Availability-Task-Force-Report.pdf>

WHEREAS the state must invest \$5 billion in the childcare sector to ensure that families have access to childcare, providers are compensated accordingly, and a plan can be created to expand child care access to everyone who needs it; and

WHEREAS investments in the childcare sector should prioritize supporting our most marginalized children and families, including but not limited to families of color, families of children with special needs, low-income families, and undocumented families; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the District 30 Community Education Council supports all efforts to provide universal child care to all children and families in the state; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the District 30 Community Education Council will be proactive in its efforts to promote and advocate for universal child care; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the District 30 Community Education Council urges the State legislature and the Governor to include an investment of \$5 billion for universal child care in the State budget for Fiscal Year 2023.

APPROVED: March 14, 2022