



INCREASE ACCESS TO CHILD CARE & IMPROVE AFFORDABILITY

The Assembly Republican Conference has created a three-pronged comprehensive proposal that would provide significant enhancements to childcare access in this State. This package includes:

PROVIDING INCREASED TAX INCENTIVES TO BOTH PROVIDERS AND FAMILIES

Studies have shown that by providing funding directly to families and businesses, the child poverty rate is significantly reduced and access to quality childcare programs becomes more readily available. The Assembly Republican Conference is proposing a \$1 billion investment in our childcare system to attack the ever-increasing child poverty rate. These proposals include:

- ◆ Increasing the State allowance of qualified expenses by 15% for the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (A.9242, Ra).
 - *\$16 million in taxpayer savings..*
- ◆ Increasing the State Earned Income Tax Credit amount from 30% to 45% (A.9258, Ra).
 - *\$386 million in taxpayer savings..*
- ◆ Increasing the State Empire State Child Tax Credit amount to 45% of the Federal Child Tax Credit amount (A.9257, Ra).
 - *\$299 million in taxpayer savings..*
- ◆ Doubling the existing Child Care Creation & Expansion Tax Credit amount from \$25 million per year to \$50 million per year (A.9245, Ra).
 - *\$50 million in taxpayer savings..*
- ◆ Creating a new Child Care Facility Capital Improvement Tax Credit to help childcare providers enhance and update facilities (A.9264, Ra).
 - *\$250 million in taxpayer savings..*
- ◆ Calling on the Federal Government to reinstate the Enhanced Child Tax Credit permanently (To be introduced, Ra).
 - This is to significantly reduce child poverty rates.
- ◆ Allowing local governments across New York State to offer an exemption from Real Property Taxes on licensed child daycare centers (A.8579, Slater).

EXPANDING ACCESS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The State has made significant investments in funding for Universal Prekindergarten. Early childhood education is a building block to a child's education success. The Assembly Republican proposal calls for Universal Prekindergarten Aid Increase and Program Improvements (A.9128, Jensen). These include:

- ◆ Increasing the State reimbursement rate to school districts for UPK students and expanding collaboration between school districts with childcare agencies.
- ◆ Ensuring school districts and childcare agencies follow the same regulations regarding staffing ratios and class sizes.
- ◆ Calling on the Commissioner of Education to streamline the hiring process for qualified UPK teachers and minimize the costs for new and existing programs.

INCREASING ACCESSIBILITY AND TACKLING AFFORDABILITY

The Assembly Republican Conference has developed several ideas that would require the support of the Office of Children and Family Services. These proposals include changing rules and regulations, creating new ways for families to access childcare that cuts the red tape of using traditional childcare models and requiring looking into how regional cost factors and State barriers impact the availability and affordability of childcare. Specifically, these proposals include:

- ◆ Increasing provider options by adopting rules and regulations that would establish a model for childcare that includes hours outside of traditional daycare models such as nights and weekends (A.9126, Jensen).
- ◆ Establishing a waiver to allow childcare to be provided in the home to multiple families as an unlicensed and unregulated daycare setting to encourage and facilitate parental choice (A.9202, Gandolfo).
- ◆ Implementing an eligible substitute childcare database for childcare providers when in need of coverage or support, (A.6071, Slater).
- ◆ Instituting a regional cost factor for childcare subsidies by regions across the State (A.9220, Gandolfo).
- ◆ Conducting a new study to examine existing State barriers which prevent new creation of providers (A.8969, Maher).