



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Martin J. Golden

## STATE SENATE APPROVES SENATOR GOLDEN'S BILL THAT SETS FRAMEWORK FOR COMMISSION TO STUDY CHILD ABUSE

MARTIN J. GOLDEN June 2, 2016



Brooklyn – State Senator Martin J. Golden (R-C-I, Brooklyn) is announcing that the New York State Senate has approved legislation he introduced, S. 824, that will establish a temporary New York State Commission to study child abuse prevention and make recommendations for the implementation of child abuse prevention programs in New York State.

Senator Marty Golden stated, “I introduced this legislation because it is time that we take a stand against child abuse and make prevention a priority. There is no place for child abuse within our society, and unfortunately, it is happening all too often throughout New York. We must truly examine and figure out how to stop this violence that is destroying too many children and families.”

Child abuse prevention programs address not only child abuse prevention but other aspects of family dynamics that threaten child and family well-being. These threats include preventable health conditions such as low birth weight, infant mortality, drug-addicted babies and more. These programs often provide referrals, education, expertise and stability for at-risk families. Some of the programs offered also focus on training for new parents.

Child abuse and neglect has been rising across New York State and more resources are being expended to treat the consequences including incarceration, court costs, foster care and more. A study by Prevent Child Abuse New York estimated these costs to be approximately \$2.4 billion each year, while the amount spent on primary prevention is than \$30 million.

Prevention programs, while proven to be effective, are currently only available to a small number of families at risk of abuse and neglect. Home visitations are only available to about 10% to 14% of eligible families. The temporary Commission would study the availability of successful prevention programs and recommend to the Governor and the State Legislature the most appropriate ways to increase the availability of these services to more at risk families.

Senator Golden continued, “Reports estimate that approximately 80,000 children are maltreated and found to be victims of child abuse each year in New York State. These horrifying statistics make it critical for the Assembly to pass this legislation this session, so

we can get working to prevent child abuse and preserve New York State families.”

The bill was sent to the Assembly. Assemblywoman Sandy Galef (D-95th District) is the sponsor.

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