



THE LEGISLATURE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

May 26, 2021

Governor Cuomo,

We are writing in response to the guidance that was issued on May 19th regarding health and safety protocols for child care programs and summer camps. Although these provisions may have been well-intentioned, it is deeply problematic that the child care providers, regulatory staff, and parents were not included in the decision making process and were only informed of the new protocols on the day they took effect. As a result of this lack of procedure, and a failure to release State funding to child care providers to implement these changes, child care providers have been suddenly and unexpectedly strained.

In addition to the issues described above, it is also problematic that the State released this new guidance exclusively in English. Non-English speaking providers generally serve a lower income population of Black and Brown families, who were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic to begin with. Although we understand that efforts may be underway to correct this, we urgently request that the State translate the guidance, make staff available to answer any questions, and wait to release any future guidance/rules/regulations until they are available in multiple languages.

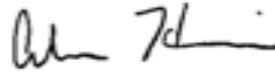
Given that the current guidance will require funding to implement, and the guidance is not currently language accessible to those who need it, we ask that you delay any enforcement of these new guidelines. We further ask that any enforcement be delayed until four conditions are met: (i) you have solicited and incorporated meaningful input from the relevant stakeholders regarding the details of the guidance, (ii) you have translated all materials to make them accessible to those who do not speak English, (iii) the licensing and regulatory staff are trained and updated on the guidance, and (iv) you have released funding that will allow relevant providers to comply with any new guidance. The recently enacted State Budget includes funding meant to stabilize the child care sector; the release of this funding must be expedited so that providers can adapt their programs. We appreciate that the guidance regarding mask wearing for 2-5

year-olds was reconsidered and we ask that the same consideration be given to the other elements of implementing these new rules.

Thank you,



Senator Jabari Brisport
Chair, Children and Families Committee



Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi
Chair, Children and Families Committee

Senator Anthony Palumbo, 1st SD
Senator Roxanne, 19th SD
Senator Alessandra Biaggi, 34th SD
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Assemblywoman Monica Wallace, 143rd AD