



S U P P O R T

Assembly Committee on Children & Families

MEMORANDUM IN

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OF

A.7581A - Jaffee

The CSEA strongly supports this legislation.

This bill amends the Social Services Law to require the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) to promulgate regulations relating to workload standards for child protective services (CPS) workers.

Currently, state law does not limit the number of active investigations each CPS worker may have at one time. However, best practice recommendations from a 2006 OCFS report states that CPS workers should have no more than 12 active cases per month.

Very few counties in New York State meet this recommended level. Some counties have had average caseloads as high as 70 per month. At such high levels, it is impossible for caseworkers to give the children and families involved in a case the proper amount of time that they need. In addition, excessive caseload is a cause of high turnover and low morale amongst CPS workers and serves as an impediment to recruiting new employees.

Children who are abused or maltreated deserve to have their cases fully and properly investigated. However, the lack of a uniform workload standard stops this from happening. This legislation will ensure that CPS staff can fully dedicate themselves to each abuse and maltreatment case and will help ensure that children will not be further victimized.

On behalf of 300,000 active and retired, public and private employees across New York State, CSEA urges the passage of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Turner
Director