



S U P P O R T

MEMORANDUM IN

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OF

A.2807 – Hevesi / S.5326 - Brisport

The CSEA strongly supports this legislation.

This bill amends the Social Services Law to increase state reimbursement to counties for preventative child protective services expenses.

Preventative child protective services are designed to keep children out of foster care and facilitate family reunification. These services include parent training, emergency goods and shelter, crisis respite care, and case management. Preventative services are proactive, rather than reactive, with the goal of keeping families together by helping them access services that stabilize their household.

Investments in preventative services save money over the long term by creating safer and healthier environments for children. According to a report from *Casey Family Programs*, every \$1 invested in preventative services yields up to \$20 in future savings. However, the current reimbursement rate set by state statute is insufficient for counties to make proper investments. Currently statute limits reimbursement to 65% of expenses for preventative services. While many counties may want to make additional investments, they are hampered by this reimbursement rate as well as the state-imposed property tax cap, which limits their ability to raise revenue and invest in critical programs while also maintaining other vital services.

Increasing the reimbursement rate to 75% will allow local social services districts to hire more preventative services case workers, which will allow them to work with more families in need as well as lower caseloads for existing workers. This investment will lower costs over the long term by decreasing the rates of youths put in foster care and will help to put families on a better path.

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