



# S U P P O R T

## MEMORANDUM IN

# SUPPORT

TO

### **Part U of S.4006 / A.3006**

### *Investments in Child Care*

The CSEA strongly supports Part U of the Education, Labor, and Family Assistance Article VII legislation. This proposal would increase family eligibility for childcare subsidies, increase the number of absences that local districts must reimburse providers for, lower family co-pays, and implement a workforce recruitment and retention grant program.

CSEA represents 10,000 home-based childcare providers throughout the state. Our members are predominately women and people of color who provide affordable, quality, and licensed childcare to both private pay and subsidized families. These providers, and the entire childcare system, are in crisis. They face inadequate and unpredictable reimbursements, lack of uniformity across districts, and the inability to expand or increase their investments in their programs and staff.

The Executive budget proposal is a step in the right direction. However, we must use these proposals as a base to be built upon in order to give this sector the resources that it desperately needs.

CSEA supports the addition of Article VII language and necessary appropriations to: 1) Pay providers for the true cost of care, and not as a percentile of the market rate; 2) Shift the subsidized childcare system from pay for attendance to pay for enrollment; 3) Increase and standardize county plan options; and 4) Increase rate differential payments to 15% for providers who offer non-traditional hours of care (including weekends) and care to homeless families.

Without addressing these issues, we will continue to see licensed and high-quality childcare providers continue to close leaving parents unable to find affordable childcare programs.

On behalf of 300,000 active and retired, public and private employees across New York State, CSEA urges the legislature to support this proposal.

Respectfully submitted,  
Fran Turner  
Director