



Testimony respectfully submitted to the New York State Human Services Hearing
February 6, 2018

I extend my deepest thanks to Senator Cathy Young and Assembly Member Helene Weinstein. Thank you for letting me speak today. I'm honored to first be given this opportunity in 2009. Sadly, over those last nine years most counties in New York have seen rates of child maltreatment rise.

Everyone is discussing the state's priorities right now, which will be reflected in the state's \$150 billion budget. There will be many pressures on the budget; amongst them priorities like fixing the opioid problem along with other drug and alcohol dependency. Preventing domestic and sexual violence. Reducing homelessness. Managing spiralling health costs. Preventing gang and crew violence.

We can substantially reduce child maltreatment, and through that protect the state's most valuable resource, our children; while addressing the issues listed above.

Child maltreatment has consequences. We know through the CDC's Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Study that child maltreatment dramatically increases your risk of dying of one of the seven leading causes of death. More than two thirds of New York's children have ACEs; doubling their chance of becoming alcoholics, and giving them a 40% higher chance of becoming an intravenous drug user. These grown children fill our mental health and addiction clinics. Our prisons. Many require special education. One in ten attempt suicide every year.

Child Protective Services (CPS) play an essential role, but CPS respond to maltreatment, they don't prevent it. The harm is done. The ACE study demonstrates that surviving a single incidence of abuse impacts a child for life. And our collective decisions about exposing children to ACEs impact taxpayers.

The good news is that we have programs that prevent ACEs. The bad news is that they are available to 5% of the people who qualify for them.



One Child Is One Too Many

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