

**Testimony to the Joint Legislative Hearing on Taxes  
February 14, 2024**

My name is Amy Lee Funes, I live in New York City and I am a mother of an active, happy, 4-year-old, name Leo. I am also a Parent Leader with the Early Childhood Policy & Advocacy Lab at the Education Trust—NY and Raising NY. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

My son, Leo, is on the Autism Spectrum and is currently in preschool. Leo has many needs and I am always working on many different ways to support him, whether it be special diets, advocating for services, or just any day-to-day things that come up for any parent. The Child Credit Tax allowed me to buy diapers and wipes in bulk so that I could save money on the overall cost. The Child Credit Tax is a huge relief, and such a huge help in taking care of this one thing that is so essential for Leo's well-being. It allows me to focus on being a mom. I have many goals and dreams for Leo; I want to ensure that he gets the best possible care and support that is available. So while I am working on that, the Child Credit Tax provides support with something so simple, yet so essential, as diapers.

I encourage the State Legislature to pass the Working Families Tax Credit. This specific bill would help me because as a single mom, every penny is spent on ensuring that Leo has a chance to have a fulfilling childhood with all of his needs met. Not only for diapers, but for other needs that come up as well. I want to expose him to the world out there through events and play-dates with other children to support his learning. The additional funds from the Working Families Tax Credit would allow me to be more creative in planning these events for Leo as well, and the quarterly payment schedule would give me more flexibility in planning for Leo's needs.

Please help ensure that my family and all New York families have the supports and resources they need to meet their children's needs. Please let me know if you have any questions, I'm available at [amyleefunes@live.com](mailto:amyleefunes@live.com). Thank you again for the opportunity to submit this testimony.