

**Testimony in Support of Full Funding of Universal Child Care Programs
in New York State**

**For the hearing of the
Joint Budget and Legislative Committees**

**Submitted to the
Human Services Committee**

February 03, 2026

Dear Chairwoman Senator Liz Krueger, Chairwoman Assemblymember Helene E. Weinstein, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Elaine Lamm, and I am a parent residing in Flushing, NY. I am writing to strongly urge your full support and funding to deliver Universal Child Care to New York State.

I do not have children but have seen how the cost of childcare has impacted my neighborhood and workplace. Many of my friends have been dealing with the difficult decision to move out of the city, or leave the workforce. I have seen extremely talented women that want to continue to work feel like they don't have a choice because childcare can be \$20,000-\$40,000 a year. A workforce where moms are able to participate is a better workplace for everyone. It will also bring additional taxable income to the city and state.

It is important also that we pay the child care educators a fair wage. They are the backbone of making universal childcare work and we need to ensure they are fairly compensated and are also not making impossible decisions for their own lives that lead to burn out. Childcare workers are leaving to work in retail or other areas to get better pay and benefits.

I urge the full funding of a statewide 3K and Pre-K Guarantee, and 2- Care in New York City to tackle the issue of Child Care Affordability.

Sincerely,

Elaine Lamm
Brooklyn, NY
Submitted via New Yorkers United for Child Care (united4childcare.org)