

**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 Kathleen Caamaño, and I am a parent residing in Elmhurst, NY. I am writing to strongly urge your full support and funding to deliver Universal Child Care to New York State.

I have to go on unpaid childcare leave and pause my career as a teacher. It's ridiculous on top of all the extra costs of just having a home, groceries and healthcare. We've lost our way as a society. There would be less crime and children would behave better if we went back to basics.

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,

Kathleen Caamaño

Elmhurst, NY

Submitted via New Yorkers United for Child Care (united4childcare.org)