

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

The cost of childcare in NY and all over the US is out of control. My daughter is 2 years old and we've been paying for childcare since she was 4 months old. Adding another \$3k expenditure monthly generally has put a huge constraint on our finances. It's also been a large factor in our decision to have another child.

I also know that the actual caregivers are not paid very well, which is incredibly discouraging given that we pay a large sum for this care. If more childcare expenses were actually subsidized by the government, all parties involved in childcare would be much better off.

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,

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