

**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 Madeleine Garner, 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.

Our daycare has raised costs twice in two years nearly doubling what it was when we started out. They have to pay high quality teachers and run a daycare we actually want to have our kids in, so I understand why they have to keep raising prices (inflation is insane, everything is expensive) but we don't know how we are going to pay for daycare next year.

We are going to be using all of our liquid savings and hoping for raises at work. I never thought that I would be strapped for cash when my husband and I both work full time jobs making in the low six figures, but we don't go out to dinner, we don't go on vacation, we don't have any extra money and we can't save any money either.

ALL OF OUR MONEY is going to paying for daycare. Because I also need to know my child is taken care of in a safe loving place all day while we are at work. It's the only thing that keeps me sane, so we pay. But it's insane and untenable.

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,

Madeleine Garner

Flushing, NY

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