



*Senator Charles E. Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510*

*Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
478 Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20510*

*Congressman George Latimer
1507 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515*

*Congressman Mike Lawler
324 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515*

January 7, 2026

RE: Protect New York Child Care Funding From Arbitrary Freeze

To the Members of Westchester's Congressional Delegation:

As President & CEO of the Westchester County Association (WCA), I write to strongly oppose any attempt by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to freeze federal funding for childcare, social services, and cash assistance for low-income families in New York based solely upon specious and unsubstantiated presumptions of widespread fraud or misuse.

The threatened action uses children and low-income families as bargaining chips to advance a partisan agenda. It is not justified. In New York State, there is no evidence of widespread misuse or mismanagement of these funds. Rather, the funding freeze appears politically motivated, targeting Democrat-led states and families (Democrat, Republican, or otherwise) who rely on these subsidies to work and maintain economic stability. Moreover, withholding congressionally authorized funds without evidence of noncompliance undermines the reliability of federal programs and the ability of states and local governments to support families.

A recent analysis by the Bipartisan Policy Center finds millions of children lack access to childcare. This shortage forces parents to reduce work hours or leave the workforce, limiting economic productivity and costing the U.S. economy up to \$329 billion over the next decade. The current funding freeze will only worsen these impacts on working families and the broader economy. Analysis can be found [here](#).

In New York, the stakes are substantial. Last year, the state received roughly \$838 million in federal childcare subsidies and \$2.4 billion through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. Interruptions to these funding streams constrain parents' ability to work, exacerbate workforce shortages, and reduce consumer spending, with ripple effects across local and regional economies. Access to affordable, reliable childcare is therefore foundational to workforce participation, business productivity, and economic stability.



For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Westchester Congressional Delegation to oppose any unsubstantiated freeze and advocate for the continuation of these critical federal funds.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael N. Romita", is written in a cursive style.

Michael N. Romita
President and CEO
Westchester County Association