

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED
BY LEGISLATORS MILLER-WILLIAMS, GRANT, SAVAGE & BURKE**

RE: Supporting NYS Legislation to Increase Funding for Child Care Subsidies

WHEREAS, Erie County supports working families by offering a subsidy to help offset the rising cost of day care services, support is only offered to eligible families who have earnings within 200% of the federal poverty level. Current programs being offered to New York State parents through the Office of Children and Family Services in other upstate and downstate counties will provide greater economic stability to working families in Erie County; and

WHEREAS, the Workforce Development Institute's (WDI) Child Care Subsidy Facilitated Enrollment Program, which provides this extra help for working families, has an eligibility cap of 275 percent of the poverty level, much higher than the Social Services' cap of 200 percent, will give a boost to parents trying to keep their jobs and make ends meet, and will also help to sustain our community's workforce if expanded to Erie County; and

WHEREAS, with current funding levels, 1,367 families with 2,335 children are only eligible to receive a child care subsidy if their income does not exceed \$31,460 for a family of two, \$39,580 for a family of three and \$47,700 for a family of four. Also, these eligible families are required to make copayments of 35% of their annual income with costs that can be high as \$13,000 per year for just one child; and

WHEREAS, the WDI Child Care Facilitated Enrollment Program has been highly successful in supporting day care, after-school, and summer camp programs in such counties as neighboring Monroe County, NY, members of the New York Senate are seeking to expand the program to Erie County and make a significant impact on hundreds of families in Western New York which, according to local child care organizations, will allow an estimated 300 more children the opportunity to be covered if this additional funding becomes available; and

WHEREAS, New York State is preparing to amend the 2015-2016 Executive Budget, inclusion of these additional funds will expand the WDI Child Care Facilitated Enrollment Program and afford working families in Erie County equal opportunity and aid being offered to other parents across New York State.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature declares its support for an amendment to the 2015-2016 Executive Budget to include an new appropriation of \$2.5 million to expand the

AFL-CIO Workforce Development Institute's Child Care Facilitated Enrollment Program to Erie County; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the clerk of the Legislature shall forward certified copies of this resolution to Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of New York State; Honorable Dean G. Skelos, Majority Leader of the New York State Senate; Honorable Carl E. Heastie, Speaker of the New York State Assembly; Honorable Members of the WNY Delegation to the New York State Legislature; Honorable Mark C. Poloncarz, Erie County Executive; and the Commissioner of the Erie County Department of Social Services.

FISCAL IMPACT: None for resolution.