

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED
BY LEGISLATORS MILLER-WILLIAMS,**

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 with 200% of the federal poverty level. Current programs being offered to New York families 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 as 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 Albany, Oneida, Onondaga and neighboring Monroe County, NY, members of the New York State 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 additional

300 children the opportunity to be covered if this additional funding becomes available; and

WHEREAS, New York State is preparing the 2016-2017 Executive Budget, inclusion of these additional funds will provide for the expansion the WDI Child Care Facilitated Enrollment program to include Erie County and afford working families in Erie County equal opportunity and access to aid being offered to other working families across New York State.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature declares its support for inclusion in the 2016-2017 Executive Budget of \$2.5 million to expand the Workforce Development Institute's Child Care facilitated enrollment program to Erie County; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of Legislature shall forward certified copies of this resolution to Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of New York State; Honorable John J. Flanagan, 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.

ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

BARBARA MILLER-WILLIAMS

Legislator - 1st District

MEMBER:

Government Affairs Committee

Finance & Management Committee

Health & Human Services Committee



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February 16, 2016

Erie County Legislature
Mr. Robert M. Graber, Minority Chief of Staff
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14204

Dear Mr. Graber:

Attached for Clock-In to the public record of the Erie County Legislature, please find a Resolution supporting the New York State Legislation to increase funding for Child Care Subsidies.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Barbara Miller-Williams".

Barbara Miller-Williams
Erie County Legislature
District 1

BMW/nd
Encs.

"We are here to serve the Community"

Intro. 4-3