

WCA eBulletin

#16



Online updates of how we
advocate for Westchester's kids

**Subscribe
today!**

WCA eBulletin #16 - June 2021

- 6 bills for kids waiting for confirmation from Governor Andrew Cuomo.
- [TAKE ACTION! Email Governor Cuomo to support 2 bills for NY kids!](#)

6 Bills for NY Kids are waiting for Gov. Cuomo's signature. YOU CAN PUSH 2 FORWARD!

The 2020-21 legislative session that ended on June 10th brought many policy improvements for children across Westchester County and New York State.

The state legislature passed bills that are being sent to the Governor to be signed into law on critical issues impacting children and families including child poverty, youth criminal justice, early childhood services, and child care.

Thank you to our Westchester delegation of the New York State Assembly and Senate for your leadership and support of children across our County: Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins; Senators Shelley Mayer, Jamaal Bailey, Alexandra Biaggi, Elijah Reichlin-Melnick, Pete Harckham; as well as Assembly Members Amy Paulin, J. Gary Pretlow, Steve Otis, Tom Abinanti, Sandy Galef, Chris Burdick, Nader Sayegh and Kevin Byrne.

Child Poverty	S.2755-C (Ramos)/A.1160-C (Bronson) requires New York State to publicly commit to cut child poverty by 50% over 10 years with a focus on racial equity. This bill will create a Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council, which will ensure New York State meets its goal.
This bill is the result of advocacy from the Child Poverty Reduction Core Group, which WCA joined in September 2020. The bill's Advisory Council will build a statewide policy agenda to reduce child poverty and foster increased data transparency focused on yearly changes in child poverty rates.	
Youth Criminal Justice	S.4051 (Bailey)/A.4982 (Hevesi) stops the arrest and prosecution of elementary school aged children (with exceptions for only the most extreme situations), in favor of an expanded system of local, community-based services that will help close the school-to-prison pipeline and address racial disparities in our youth justice system. S.282 (Myrie)/A.6769 (Hyndman) expands second chance Youthful Offender record sealing opportunities to individuals who developed criminal records as teenagers but have successfully reintegrated into society.
These 2 bills are outstanding pieces of youth justice reform that did not pass in the 2017 Raise the Age legislation. Both pieces of legislation make progress towards our goal of aligning criminal justice policies with brain science and the principles of youth development. There is still work to be done for emerging adults ages 18 to 25.	
Child Care	S.5162 (Brisport)/ A.5840 (Clark) allows child care providers to access direct deposit to receive payment as a way to alleviate long delays in payment from county partners providing child care funding. S.7128 (Brisport)/ A.7721-A (Clark) extends the term and expands the scope of the Child Care Availability Task Force, which will improve both child care funding approaches and access to child care throughout the state.
These bills advance us towards our goal of making child care more affordable and accessible for parents and financially viable for child care providers. It is our hope that the Child Care Availability Task Force will help us make even greater progress in the future.	
Early Childhood Services	S.5560-A (Reichlin-Melnick) /A.5339 (Paulin) creates a Covered Lives fund of \$40 million from insurance companies that will make it easier for young children with special needs and developmental delays to access Early Intervention (EI) services. S.6516-A (Mannion)/ A.8013 (Benedetto) matches preschool special education payment growth rates with general education school funding growth rates, setting a stronger foundation for children with developmental delays and special needs and the early educators they work with.
Establishment of the Covered Lives Fund will address the statewide delay in delivery of timely Early Intervention (EI) services to our youngest residents. We highlighted Westchester's EI delays as exceeding the state average in our 2019 Data Bulletin. This is a major step forward.	

Advocacy Alert!



**Email Governor Andrew Cuomo
to confirm the YO Second Chance &
Child Poverty Reduction Acts TODAY!**



WCA urges the Governor to sign all of these bills into law immediately to improve the lives of thousands of children. We are eager to work with the Governor, state leaders, and our partners to use this momentum to create a better future for all of Westchester's children.

You can help us ensure Governor Cuomo signs 2 bills.

Use our [Advocacy Alert](#) below to send a message to Governor Cuomo to confirm the YO Second Chance and the Child Poverty Reduction Acts.

There is strength in numbers and receiving your letters and tweets will make sure he acts promptly on behalf of children!

TAKE ACTION!

Reveal your inner superhero

<p>Donate monthly to Westchester Children's Association to help all kids in our county!</p> <p>wca4kids.org/monthly-donate</p>	<p>JUST \$10 PER MONTH</p> <p>Helps pay transportation for a young person to advocate with us in Albany</p>	<p>ONLY \$25 PER MONTH</p> <p>Supports community education and training in our Advocacy 101 program</p>	<p>A MERE \$50 PER MONTH</p> <p>Preserves high quality after-school and youth programs that our children deserve</p>	<p>YOUR \$100 PER MONTH</p> <p>Helps us advocate for services to help more than 2,500 homeless children in Westchester</p>
---	--	--	---	---

Call us at 914.946.7676

Support our work each month!

Give what you can each month to help us progress towards our advocacy goals. \$5 a month can help us build awareness about remote learning challenges. \$10 per month can help us to transport advocates to legislative meetings and train young people in civic engagement remotely. [Every gift helps...](#)

Become a Defender of Children!

SUBSCRIBE

DONATE

OUR WORK

**Forward This eBulletin
to your Friends!**



Westchester Children's Association

470 Mamaroneck Avenue, Suite 304 | White Plains, New York 10605
914-946-7676 | wca@wca4kids.org

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it in your web browser](#)

[Unsubscribe](#) or [Manage Your
Preferences](#)