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In today's State of the State, Governor Hochul acknowledged the crisis in child care and the critical importance of expanding access for families and increasing compensation for the workforce. Unfortunately, Governor Hochul's proposed investments in child care, while certainly a gesture in the right direction, are not significant enough to meet the needs of this crucial sector at this time, let alone begin the transformation of child care that New York children and families so desperately need.

The investment of \$75 million in unspent federal funds for workforce support, only a small portion of what is actually remaining from FY 2021, is a small step in addressing compensation issues. "The under compensation of the workforce, largely women of color, perpetuates long-standing racial and gender inequities, prevents the retainment of staff, and undermines the goal of providing quality care. This investment-- while a step in the right direction-- does not go nearly far enough," said Tara N. Gardner, Executive Director, Day Care Council of New York. "Similarly, the proposed increase of child care eligibility leaves far too many families without access to child care and is significantly less than what federal regulations permit."

"As a former child care provider, I know that New York's children and families have suffered from years of inadequate state investments in child care. This latest phase of the pandemic is now directly impacting our children, making it critically important to support both families and the child care workforce," said Vonetta T. Rhodes, Empire State Campaign for Child Care and WNY Child Care Action Team. "New York cannot afford to waste another minute. We urge the Governor and the State Legislature to take bold action and begin the path towards universal child care."

"The Governor still has time to make these crucial investments in her Executive Budget," said Dede Hill, Director of Policy, Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy and Executive Committee member of the Empire State Campaign for Child Care. "The Empire State Campaign for Child Care looks forward to a 2022-23 Executive Budget that moves the State significantly closer to a transformation of child care in New York State that ensures every child and family has equitable access to high-quality child care, and every early care educator can earn a sustaining wage."