



**UNITED
NEIGHBORHOOD
HOUSES**

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Memorandum in Support
S.6655A (Brisport) / A.7661 (Hevesi)
Expanding Child Care Access: Decoupling Work Hours from Care

United Neighborhood Houses (UNH) supports S.6655A (Brisport)/A.7661 (Hevesi), which would decouple the hours a parent works from the hours child care is available to them, thus expanding access to care for many of New York's most vulnerable, low-income families.

Current law states that parents who receive child care assistance must not be available to care for their child for a "substantial part of the day." Local social services departments use this language to restrict care hours to those when a parent is working, looking for work, or in school. For many parents who work part time, have rotating work schedules, are homeless, or have other non-traditional arrangements, this effectively limits access to care for them.

This legislation would remove this restrictive language referencing a "substantial part of the day" and clarify that local social services districts are not required to limit care based on parents' work, training, or educational schedule. The legislation will expand access to care for many low-income families who need child care the most. It will support settlement houses in the UNH network that run child care programs by allowing more families in their communities to be able to access these critical programs. Further, this legislation will bring New York better in line with federal law, which explicitly states that child care hours do not have to be limited by parent schedules.

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UNH is a policy and social change organization representing 45 neighborhood settlement houses that reach 765,000 New Yorkers from all walks of life. A progressive leader for more than 100 years, UNH is stewarding a new era for New York's settlement house movement. We mobilize our members and their communities to advocate for good public policies and promote strong organizations and practices that keep neighborhoods resilient and thriving for all New Yorkers. UNH leads advocacy and partners with our members on a broad range of issues including civic and community engagement, neighborhood affordability, healthy aging, early childhood education, adult literacy, and youth development.