



## MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

### Working Families Tax Credit

A.4022A (Hevesi)/S.277A (Gounardes)

April 14, 2023

The Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCANYS) is in strong support of A.4022A (Hevesi)/S.277A (Gounardes) which would help New York's families build economic security and pull families and children out of poverty.

CHCANYS is the primary care association for New York's federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), also known as community health centers (CHCs). Located in low-income and medically underserved neighborhoods, CHCs provide a full range of primary and preventive health care and enabling services for more than 2.3 million patients at over 800 sites, regardless of insurance, immigration status, or ability to pay. Among CHC patients, 89% are low-income, 68% are Black, Hispanic/Latinx, and people of color, 13% are uninsured and 59% are enrolled in Medicaid or Child Health Plus.

In New York, more than one in five children live in poverty – that's 803,000 children. The rate rises to nearly one in three among children of color.<sup>1</sup> Experiencing poverty as a child can negatively impact physical and mental health, educational achievement, and more. Children under the age of five are the most vulnerable to the negative effects of poverty and these effects can last a lifetime – childhood poverty is the single best predictor of adult poverty.

Working family refundable tax credits are one important means of building family economic security and independence and pulling families and children out of poverty. A.4022A(Hevesi)/S.277A (Gounardes) achieves this by:

- Expanding the Empire State Tax Credit to 0-3 years old who are currently left out of the credit and who are the most vulnerable to the negative impacts of poverty;
- Including ITIN filers for the first time in the Earned Income Tax Credit, which currently excludes many immigrant workers even when they are on track to citizenship;
- Eliminating the phase-in, allowing those with the lowest income to receive the largest credit; and
- Increasing the credit provided to all families.

The costs of poverty are far reaching and staggering, impacting children, families, and communities who thrive only when their members thrive. **CHCANYS urges the Legislature to pass A.4022A (Hevesi)/S.277A (Gounardes) to ensure that New York's children have every opportunity to thrive.**

For questions or more information, please reach out to Marie Mongeon, Vice President of Policy, at [mmongeon@chcanys.org](mailto:mmongeon@chcanys.org).

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.scaany.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/3-Bills\\_EITCs-and-ESCC\\_2019.pdf](https://www.scaany.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/3-Bills_EITCs-and-ESCC_2019.pdf)