



For Immediate Release

Contact:

Rose Anello 212.673.1800 x 13 or 917.690.2869

New York City Child Advocates Support City Council Proposals to Bridge the Gap for Families and Children Bypassed by the City's Delivery System of Core and Vital Services

(April 6, 2006, New York, NY) – Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, applauds Speaker Quinn and the New York City Council for advancing four new FY07 budget priorities for children that will move the city closer to *Securing Every Child's Birthright* to be healthy, housed educated and safe. Today, the Speaker called for extending the city's Pre Kindergarten school day from a half-day to a full day. "We know that children are more likely to be ready to succeed in school with a quality early education and working parents need more than 2 1/2 hours of care," said Jennifer March Joly, Associate Executive Director for Program and Policy at Citizens' Committee for Children (CCC).

To prepare 311 operators to answer the questions of parents needing to enroll their children in school and of parents of children all ready in New York City schools, the City Council proposed enhanced training for operators. CCC agrees that easy access to information will help parents make better decisions for their children.

The City Council also recommended that more of New York City's school-based community centers – Beacons - add child abuse and neglect preventive services to the array services they now have available. Right now only 16 of the city's 80 Beacons have specialized services for children at-risk of child abuse or neglect.

In a city as expensive as New York, access to food and a healthy diet is a daily struggle for families who have limited income. "The City Council's proposal to increase Food Stamp enrollment outreach in schools and communities across the city and streamline the application process supports efforts now underway by the city to fight poor nutrition, obesity and other poor health outcomes among New Yorkers," said Rose Anello, Associate Executive Director for Public Affairs at CCC.

CCC gave high marks today to the City Council's response to the Mayor's Financial Plan for 2006 and urged that in the coming weeks, the Mayor and the Speaker negotiate a budget for FY07 that restores vital children's services and new initiatives that work to *Secure Every Child's Birthright*.

####