



Statement on Cuts to Children's Services in State Budget Extender

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Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, Inc. (CCC) is deeply troubled by the Budget extender provisions that would reduce state funding for a whole host of social service programs for New York's children. In particular, we are concerned about the dramatic reduction in resources for the identification and prevention of child abuse and neglect. While no one wants a government shut down, this cut has not been proposed previously and is being voted on now in the absence of an open dialogue among families in receipt of service, child advocates, the Governor and the State Legislature about how harmful it will be to child safety and family stability. Just last week, CCC released *Keeping Track of New York City's Children* which included child welfare data illustrating the historically high rate of child abuse and neglect reporting as well as high indication rates. In addition, two months ago, CCC released *The Wisest Investment*, a report examining the strengths and needs of abuse and neglect prevention programs. *The Wisest Investment* documents the need for more resources and more services to prevent child abuse and neglect. With this research and data in hand, CCC urges the Governor and the State Legislature to reject the cuts to child abuse and neglect prevention and protection services when the State budget is adopted. The safety of New York's children is paramount in these challenging fiscal times.

To access *Keeping Track* online:

<http://www.cccnewyork.org/aboutkt.html>

To access *The Wisest Investment: New York City's Preventive Service System*

<http://www.cccnewyork.org/publications/CCCwisestinvestment10.pdf>