

# American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

NYSAAP, District II, Chapters 1, 2 & 3



## Memo of Support

### Working Families Tax Credit S. 277A/ A. 4022A

February 24, 2023

**The New York State American Academy of Pediatrics, representing more than 5,000 pediatricians across the state supports passage of S.277-A / A.4022-A creating the New York State Working Families Tax Credit.**

New York's child poverty rate is persistently higher than the national average. And the cavern between the richest and the poorest New Yorkers is becoming deeper and deeper.

Today, more than one in five children across our state is living in a family that is struggling to meet basic needs. And our youngest children are the poorest New Yorkers!

With the elimination of the federal Refundable Child Tax Credit, hundreds of thousands of children from Eastern Long Island to Buffalo fell back into poverty. Their families once again found it hard to buy healthy foods for family meals. Families struggled to keep their housing. And despite working hard, often at two or even three jobs, families were finding their buying power shrinking in the face of inflation. This worsening economic scenario for our most vulnerable children and families makes it essential for New York to prioritize policies proven to reduce child poverty now!

The WFTC proposed by S. 277A/A. 4022A directly addresses the current economic challenges facing millions of families across our state. It is estimated that the NYS WFTC will result in a 13.4% reduction in children under the age of 18 living in poverty, with a 19.6% reduction for those under 18 living in deep poverty.

The WFTC credit builds upon the strengths of New York's ESCC and EITC and corrects their shortcomings most especially by including children 0-4 in the tax benefit equation. The WFTC will allow families with the lowest incomes to receive the highest credit amount by eliminating the phase-ins currently in place for both credits. In addition,

WFTC will be available to immigrant tax-filers with Individual Tax Identification Numbers (ITIN) in the same manner as filers with Social Security Numbers (SSNs). The WFTC will be paid out in four increments throughout the year.

We urge you to move this legislation forward as quickly as possible. Our children and their hardworking families depend on you to understand the depth of the challenges they are facing and help them create and maintain the stable and nurturing homes they want, and we all want for our families. Addressing child poverty is a priority if we want a healthy, educated, and productive New York. Passing this bill will be a giant step forward in addressing child poverty in New York.

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