



A Nationwide Network of Doctors
Advocating for Young Children

**DOCTORS KNOW THAT INVESTMENTS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKFORCE
ENSURE CHILDREN'S HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT: WE URGE PASSAGE OF S.4378A**

Dear New York State Senators,

As children's doctors, we are committed to ensuring the healthy development and future success of New York's children. It is clear that investments in quality early education programs will have dramatic returns in all aspects of growth and development as well as economic success.

Research shows that qualified teachers are the key to determining the future success of our children. We ask you to support New York's youngest children through S.4378A which would grant student loan forgiveness awards of up to a total of \$25,000 for individuals who agree to continue employment in the child care field.

Early childhood is a time of unprecedented potential and opportunity. Brain development and growth are occurring at staggering rates. Young children show incredible enthusiasm for learning and take pride in their many new accomplishments. Quality programs with qualified teachers ensure that the great opportunities of early childhood are realized. Yet, many early childhood teachers have little or no formal education in early childhood development. For many, it's because they can't afford that training and education. The field pays very poorly, making it hard to pursue higher education. In fact, many dedicated teachers are leaving the field because they cannot afford to stay.

Passage of the Senate's bill (S.4378A) to support loan forgiveness for early childhood professionals would be instrumental in creating high-quality early learning programs for children. We urge you to help move the bill out of committee and onto the floor for a vote!

We need to have qualified teachers in early childhood programs to make sure our children's development needs are met and that they enter school with the skills to succeed. Please support moving S.4378A out of committee and to the floor for a vote before the end of the legislative session. By doing so, you will be contributing to the health and well being of New York's future.

Thank you for your service and for the time you take to support early learning in our communities.

Sincerely,

New York Children's Doctors

Joseph J. Abularrage, MD Douglaston, NY	David Fagan, MD Bronx, NY	Jane C. McCaffrey, MD Geneva, NY	Lisa Rutkovsky, MD Manhasset, NY
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