



Joint Hearing New York City Council Committee on Higher Education and Committee on
Women
Oversight - Child Care Services at the City University of New York

Testimony by
Christopher Rosa, Ph.D., CUNY Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
June 14, 2018

Good morning Chair Barron, Chair Cumbo, and distinguished members of the Committees on Higher Education and on Women. My name is Chris Rosa and I currently serve as CUNY's Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Thank you for this opportunity to address the City Council on the very important issue of child care services at CUNY.

I am joined today by my colleagues Kisha Vaughan, University Manager of Child Care and Leadership Programs; Cecelia Scott-Croff, Director of the Early Childhood Center at the Borough of Manhattan Community College; and Ardith Hutchins, a student at BMCC whose child attends the college's Early Childhood Center.

On behalf of the University, I would like to thank you for elevating access to campus child care as a critical resource for student-parents. I also extend our deepest appreciation for the financial support that this body has, year after year, dedicated to CUNY campus child care centers.

Campus Child Care at CUNY

We know that access to on-campus child care is an essential component of student success. Furthermore, we know that high quality campus child care has a positive impact on the cognitive, social and physical development of young children. Campus child-care is an especially important resource for single and low-income student-parents.

CUNY has long been a national leader in the provision of on-campus child care services. We continue to operate 16 campus child care centers, at a time when the percentage of on-campus child care centers is declining nationally. According to the Institute for Women's Policy Research, campus child care centers have been closing across the country. In 2015, less than half of four-year public colleges provided campus child care, down from 55 percent a decade

ago and, during this same period of time, community colleges reported that campus child care declined at an event greater rate —from 53 percent 44 percent.¹

During the 2017-18 academic year, CUNY's childcare centers have served almost 1,500 children and 1400 student-parents. All CUNY Child Care Centers enroll pre-school children, ages 3 to 5 years of age. Four centers offer both infant and toddler programs for children ages 6 months to three years of age; and two centers provide services for toddlers ages 18 months to three years. Ten centers offer after-school programs for school age children, ages 5-12. The centers accommodate the needs of parents with some centers opening as early as 7AM and closing at 9PM; some are open on weekends.

CUNY's Board of Trustees campus childcare policy² gives first priority for campus child care services to matriculating CUNY student-parents. Then, provided the need for child care services by registered, matriculated college students is being met, and to the extent that space and funding permit, priority goes to non-matriculated part-time college students. Then, to the extent that space and funding permit, the BOT policy allows CUNY faculty and staff to use the campus child care centers; fees charged to faculty and staff children are set at prevailing market rates. Finally, to the extent that space and funding permit, the BOT policy states that a child care center operating on a CUNY college campus may also provide child care services to community members. where the charges are set at market rates.

CUNY Child Care Centers promote the success of student-parents by providing subsidies for low income student-parents through funding from the New York State Child Care and Development Fund administered by OCFS, and contracting with the New York City Department of Education to offer UPK at all 16 on-campus centers. Three campuses have been the recipients of CCAMPIS grants – a competitive federal grant that supports the participation of low income parents in postsecondary education through the provision of campus-based child care.

The University's Child Care programs provide a broad range of developmental experiences for children, all of which feature parental involvement as a key program element and core value. These programs provide an array of services that include parenting workshops, parent-teacher conferences, early intervention and prevention services, and health and wellness referrals. Children at the centers are engaged in high quality programs, the curricula reflecting the essential elements of quality program standards by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. These programs are thoughtfully planned, challenging, engaging, and culturally and linguistically responsive to the families they serve. Experienced and dedicated

¹ See: Child Care for Parents in College: A State-by-State Assessment (September 2016) at <http://www.chronicle.com/blogs/ticker/files/2016/09/Child-Care.pdf>

² See: CUNY Board of Trustees Policy 7.021 Child-Care Services at http://policy.cuny.edu/policyimport/manual_of_general_policy/article_vii_student_affairs_and_special_programs/policy_7.021_child-care_services/document.pdf

early childhood educators plan activities and experiences based upon curriculum goals and develop multicultural classroom settings that value diversity, leveraging it as a strength in learning. The Centers also serve as a key resource to many academic departments by providing a venue for student internships, fieldwork and research.

The safety and wellness of the children we serve is a top priority. Every Campus Child Care Center is licensed by the New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, in compliance with New York City Health Code, which provides regulations for staff qualifications, staff/child ratios, program safety, emergency procedures and facilities maintenance.

We are proud to report that CUNY's Child Care Centers have distinguished themselves through their excellence. Several centers have achieved national accreditation, meeting the professional standards of high quality early care and education programs developed by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

CUNY's 16 on-campus child care programs are making a critical difference in the lives of student-parents and their families. In a 2014 CUNY survey of student-parents using on-campus child care, more than eight out of ten student parents said that they had more time to study and over six out of ten said they were able to take additional courses because on-campus child care was available to them. The research shows that taking additional courses each semester has a positive effect on retention and graduation.

Despite our accomplishments and national recognition, we know that, with sufficient resources, CUNY can do more for our student-parents.

Defining the need

Not all student-parents need or want on-campus child care. They have made arrangements with family members or centers near their homes. Still, we know that currently, we are not able to provide services to all of the student-parents who want campus child care. Simply put: need exceeds capacity.

To provide us with the tools we need to measure the magnitude and dimensions of unmet need and capture the experiences of our student-parents, we have formed a data group that is designing a system for collecting and reporting this information. The data that we collect from student-parents at the campuses will provide us with ability to understand and quantify need, access, and usage in detail.

Infrastructure

Many of our schools have reached capacity and cannot offer additional slots. In order to serve more children and student-parents, we will need more space. We need to conduct an assessment of current capacity by school and learn more about options.

In closing, we thank the Council for its continued leadership on this issue. We deeply appreciate your commitment to campus child care. Your advocacy drives City investments in CUNY campus child care, to enable our centers to recruit and retain talented, qualified and experienced early-childhood educators; to ensure that these teachers receive ongoing training and professional development; to allow our centers to remain open during the times when our students need them most; and to provide our colleges the resources for facilities maintenance and management to ensure that our centers are safe, clean, and welcoming to student-parents and their children.

I would once again like to thank Chair Barron and the Higher Education Committee and Chair Cumbo and the Committee on Women for the opportunity to testify today. If I may be of any further assistance, I hope you will call upon me.



PUBLIC ADVOCATE FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Letitia James

**Testimony on Behalf of the New York City Public Advocate, Letitia James,
Before the Committees on Higher Education and Women
June 14, 2018**

Good morning. My name is Michelle Kim, Policy Associate for the New York City Public Advocate Letitia James, and I am here today to present testimony on her behalf.

We would to thank the Chairs, Council Members Barron and Rosenthal, as well as their staffs and the committee staff, for holding this oversight hearing on the critical issue of child care at CUNY. I would also like to personally thank them for allowing me to read the Public Advocate's testimony into the record.

No parent should have to choose between their family and going to school or work. But, unfortunately, the staggering costs of child care keep too many New Yorkers trapped in poverty.

The Office of the Public Advocate has released three reports on child care issues during her term, two of which specifically address the child care needs at CUNY schools.

We paid particular attention to CUNY because we believe that providing adequate on-site child care would open doors to college education for parents, especially moms, who wouldn't otherwise have the resources to advance their education.

In 2015, our first child care report, "Relieving the Third-Shift," called on the City to increase its long-stagnant investment in CUNY child care, which had remained unchanged from \$500,000 since 1980. We were incredibly excited to learn that this year the City Council, with Chair Barron's leadership, was able to negotiate a significant increase in funding

Since the release of the first CUNY child care report, the Office of the Public Advocate met with directors of CUNY child care centers as well as the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, which manages the child care centers, to further investigate the underlying challenges of serving all student parents at CUNY. In addition to the funding increase, we learned, more broadly, that CUNY's child care infrastructure needed to be strengthened - which the second report addresses.

"The Missing Piece: Strengthening CUNY's Child Care Infrastructure," released in January 2018, makes recommendations to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of CUNY's existing child care system.

Notably, the report found that there is significant need for better, more centralized coordination and oversight over what is currently a diffuse system.

The 16 child care centers that currently exist in CUNY all operate independently in terms of licensing, staffing, procurement, and even funding as a result of a 1983 New York State law. This means that each of the CUNY child care centers are applying and competing against each other for some of the same federal grants, undermining the collective success of the system as a whole.

This decentralized system also causes significant cost-inefficiencies, especially when it comes to staff benefits. Our report shows that three different centers are currently paying different rates for health insurance for their employees.

For these reasons, the Public Advocate called for the creation of a dedicated office within CUNY focused on child care, to facilitate collaboration across CUNY's child care centers and minimize the competitive atmosphere over funding.

Our report also found that better data is needed in order to identify gaps in services and better tailor services to meet the needs of CUNY students.

Finally, the report recommends significantly increasing the number of slots for infants and toddlers. In New York City, the gap between the need for care and the availability of subsidized services is most acute for infants and toddlers. But only six out of sixteen campus child care centers offer programs for this underserved and high-need age group. It is critical that CUNY addresses the high demand for children under two so that student-parents can continue pursuing their education without interruption.

Child care should no longer be considered a supplemental or "add-on" component to higher education, but a core component of students' academic success. Investing in CUNY child care is not only the right thing to do, it is a commonsense investment in our City's economic future.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. We look forward to hearing more about plans to finally tackle these critical issues.



**TESTIMONY
OF THE
NEW YORK PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP
BEFORE THE
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND
COMMITTEE ON WOMEN
ON CHILD CARE SERVICES AT THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
JUNE 14, 2018
New York, New York**

Good afternoon. My name is Emily Skydel, I am the Higher Education Coordinator for the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG). NYPIRG is a statewide, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization founded by college students in 1973 to engage their peers in civic life.

NYPIRG's broad programmatic work provides students with a range of opportunities to participate in public affairs and advance responses to social problems. Our structured peer-to-peer learning and community service programs offer opportunities for meaningful civic engagement, and are a potent vehicle for encouraging participation in democracy among students. Our Board of Directors consists of college and university students elected from campuses with NYPIRG chapters across the State.

We thank the City Council for holding this hearing on childcare services at the City University of New York.

DEGREE COMPLETION FOR STUDENT PARENTS IS VITAL

In an increasingly economically divided and high-cost city, college degree completion is the surest way to gain economic security. In New York City, twenty of the twenty five fastest-growing occupations that pay over \$50,000 per year require a college degree.¹ Despite the obvious benefits, too many New Yorkers are still without a degree. The US Census Bureau calculated that a mere 19 percent of Bronx residents over the age of twenty-five hold a

¹ Center for an Urban Future (CUF) analysis of New York State Department of Labor Long-Term Occupational Employment Projections, 2014-2024.

bachelor's degree or higher between 2011 and 2015.

The problem can be even more severe for student parents. According to the Institute for Women's Policy Research, just 8 percent of single mothers who enroll in college graduate with an associate or bachelor's degree within six years, compared with 49 percent of women students who are not mothers.²

While the average cost of private child care or daycare in NYC can be prohibitively expensive (\$25,000 a year³), enrolling a child in daycare at CUNY can cost as little as \$5 a day. It's unsurprising that access to affordable child care increases degree completion rates. A study by Monroe Community College in Rochester, NY, found that student parents that used the child care center there were 30 percent more likely to stay in school.

CUNY's child care centers can be a unique and powerful tool for socio-economic mobility in New York City. While, as of 2015, fewer than half of two year and four year colleges nationwide had child care centers, nearly every CUNY campus has one.

Alexis Ramos, a student parent that benefits from the child care center at Borough of Manhattan Community College shared her story with us:

"I am majoring in political science and theater, and aim to be a senator or mayor. I believe tuition and other costs to attend CUNY and SUNY schools should be state funded. I started college right after getting my GED. When I started to look into schools, I was worried I couldn't afford it. A huge obstacle was figuring out where my 2 year old son would go while I was in school. My mother was too old and sick to take care of him and I didn't have any other family members around me so I felt stuck. My only option was to look for daycare but the prices were way too expensive. I felt like I would be drowning in debt and costs of tuition and childcare. I enrolled at BMCC since it had a childcare center."

Concerningly, we have learned from some students that they were unaware that CUNY had child care services available. In some cases, this led to delayed enrollment or degree completion. Tasha Lee, a student at Bronx Community College, shared her story with us:

"I realized I needed to go back to school to be able to live on my own and be independent but I didn't think I could afford it. I didn't know much about financial aid, I knew I didn't want to go down the path of student loans. I certainly didn't know there was child care at CUNY. I waited three years after becoming a mom before going to school. My

² Institute for Women's Policy Research, "Investing in Single Mothers' Higher Education: Costs and Benefits to Individuals, Families, and Society." <https://iwpr.org/publications/investing-single-mothers-higher-ed/>.

³ Bernard, Tara Siegel. "Choosing Child Care When You Go Back to Work." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 22 Nov. 2013, www.nytimes.com/2013/11/23/your-money/choosing-child-care-when-you-go-back-to-work.html.

dad has luckily been able to help me from North Carolina with rent and food, but I understand a lot of people don't get that support. He also was able to help with daycare before I was in school, but at the time wasn't helping me with the other expenses because I was working. Now I am a full time student at BCC. I'm part of ASAP, all of my college expenses are covered besides rent and food and I don't need child care anymore because my kids are older. However, if I were to have to work full time and take evening classes, I'd have the option of putting them in the BCC child care center. There are so many expenses involved in committing to being a student, I've been lucky to get some support for some aspects of my living expenses as well as financial aid and ASAP but it took me a long time to get where I am today. Imagine if I knew about child care at CUNY sooner? If I had known about BCC's childcare I could have began in school working toward my future career much sooner."

Single mothers with only a high school diploma are over three times as likely to live in poverty as single mothers with a bachelor's degree.⁴ But getting the college degree can be an immense challenge. Melissa Estrella took ten years to get her Associate's Degree, simply due to the fact that she was unaware of child care at Bronx Community College and as a result took a break from her education. She shared her story with us:

"I've been at BCC off and on since 2009. I took time off when I had my kids because I honestly didn't know about childcare at CUNY. It's \$5 a day here, thats super cheap. I was going here and I had no idea it existed, I would've finished school a lot quicker if I had known. I had to drop a couple of semesters because I didn't have child care. I feel like the advisors should have worked with me to tell me about the child care options on campus so that I wouldn't drop out. I've spent a lot of time and money at this school and I deserve a better support system. I'm trying to go to Lehman after this, but I'm likely going to take a year off. I am going to run out of financial aid soon, possibly even after my first semester at Lehman because I spent so many years getting through this degree. How am I supposed to pay for my bachelors if all of my financial aid runs out? I want to be a social worker which means I need at least a bachelor's."

CUNY'S CHILD CARE CENTERS MUST BE WELL SUPPORTED AND PROMOTED

We thank the City Council for helping to increase funding for child care in the Fiscal Year 19 budget. As an intervention strategy to curb student drop-out rates, **we recommend continued expansion of child care funding so that additional student parents can enroll their children.**

⁴ Institute for Women's Policy Research, "Investing in Single Mothers' Higher Education: Costs and Benefits to Individuals, Families, and Society." <https://iwpr.org/publications/investing-single-mothers-higher-ed/>.

NYPIRG also recommends that the City Council Higher Education Committee strategize with advocates, parents, CUNY administrators, and other stakeholders to determine effective outreach and promotion strategies for CUNY's child care centers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Good morning Distinguished Members of the Council, Interim Vice Chancellor Dr. Chris Rosa, students and fellow Campus Center Directors.

I am Dr. Cecilia Scott-Croff, the Executive of Borough of Manhattan Community College's Early Childhood Center and a member of the Child Care Council at CUNY. At the Child Care Centers at CUNY, I like to think we provide the right amount of pedagogy, student interactions and quality child care to meet the needs of students and their children. One of our top priorities is to ensure we work collaboratively across campus and ensure that student-parents have all they need to succeed both inside and outside of the classroom. Our program models provide a unique two generational approach that offers a lasting impact on our students and their children.

Conversely, our two-generation approach and our programs' models have a three-fold mission of teaching, research, and service. These efforts support persistence, retention and graduation. Our programs offer opportunities for student internships, volunteerism and work study placement. Secondly, we prepare students for careers in the field of early care and education through our collaborative work with many teacher education departments and we promote research related to children, families and early childhood education. Our programs have assisted doctoral students at the CUNY Graduate Center with their critical research. We have assisted with service and experiential learning endeavors on campus and promoted men in child care and numerous literacy initiatives. Most importantly, we provide developmentally appropriate early care and education services for children.

The information culled by our programs indicates more than 2 thirds of CUNY Child Care programs are nationally accredited. Accreditation is the hallmark of quality childcare. Our programs are licensed by the New York City Department of Mental Hygiene and several others are also licensed by the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS).

Our CUNY End of the Year Report (2017) and our Student Parent Survey (2014) indicates that our programs serve 126 children within the infant/ toddler range, 1035 preschoolers, and 265 school age children. We have 11 programs identified as 501 c 3's (separately incorporated entities) 3 programs that operate as part of their College Associations, one Center is part of the College, meaning the staff is paid by tax levy funds. One Center is outsourced by a private 501 c3 and lastly City College, which is currently under construction is set to open in September, the latest January 2019. This Center's child care service will be outsourced by the college.

In terms of Child Care slots, our programs licensure ranges in size, for example, Baruch College's Child Care Center has one Department of Health permit for 30 preschool children to our largest campus, LaGuardia Early Learning Center and has 3 permits and a capacity to serve up to 189 children within the infant, toddler, preschool and school age range. It is important to note, while each program has a specific designation of how many children they're allowed to serve within a specific age range at one time, all of our programs have the capacity to serve well beyond our licensure due to our flexible scheduling and the various needs of our students. This allows our programs to potentially maximize services to meet the needs of our student parents.

The Central Office of CUNY has numerous internal controls as well as our respective campuses which consistently evaluate our enrollment, external and internal fiscal controls. This information is outlined as part of an end of the year report submitted by each campus to the University Manager of Childcare. As part of Campus Children's Centers blended funding model, we are subject to multiple reporting structures regarding our funding. We must document and justify all of our spending to several reporting structures and in many cases, create multiple budgets. For example, one program has an extensive budget which outlines in detail all of its revenue and expenditures, in addition to this, they must create 5-6 separate budgets to detail their spending for each funding source.

With additional funds, programs would be able to extend hours including early drop off, evening, and weekend services. Additional resources would enable Centers to expand capacity by increasing hours and days of service. As indicated by our CUNY Child Care Report, 16% of CUNY students report they require child care support and more than 16% indicate they would be unable to attend classes if child care were not on campus.

There is an opportunity for Child Care Services to build on its' Capacity in several ways. Many programs have adequate space and could expand hours of service to provide Student Parents with childcare services that are available for a broader range of hours and days. Enabling student parents to have childcare that mirrors the times and days they have classes would give students more flexibility in registering for classes, thereby increasing recruitment, retention, and graduation rates. Capacities at many centers could be increased with the addition of funding. Presently 12 of sixteen centers have children on a waitlist.

For Centers that have waiting lists, an increase in funding could provide an opportunity to increase enrollment by opening more classrooms, providing additional hours of service, as well days of service.

Importance of Child Care and Benefits of Child Care

For the close to 1300 children and families benefiting from state licensed, nationally accredited child care programs that offer low cost high quality care to the children of our student parents, our programs provide an opportunity for students to experience campus life. We provide nominal fees that range from 5 to 50 dollars a week. Since the 1970's student parents across CUNY and presently, 16 CUNY Campus Children's Centers have benefited from this invaluable service. Sprawled across five boroughs, providing various levels of programming, student parents have been able to persist and to graduate. As it relates to graduation rates; a recent analysis of data from Monroe Community College in Rochester NY indicates student parents who utilized the campus children's center had more than triple the one-time graduation rate of student parents who did not use the Center. Student Parents at CUNY Child Care Centers, surveyed in a 2014, indicated due to on campus child care, they were able to take additional classes, increase their study time, participate in group study projects and use on campus support services.

The research of the Institute of Women's Policy Research indicates:

For every dollar a single mother spends on an associate degree, her family gets back \$16.45 in increased earning, for a bachelor's degree, each dollar invested brings her family a return of \$8.05.

The Institute for Women's Policy Research indicates, in addition to serving as a return on investment, providing child care also helps to curtail poverty levels. Food insecurity is a national crisis, with every growing single stop programs to address student needs across our campuses we are attempting to balance the various needs of our students with services available on campus to help them persist and graduate.

Funding and Cost of Child Care

As it relates to funding, a third of our programs accept ACD vouchers, the current fair market rate delineated by the Office of Children and Family Services indicates Child Care reimbursable cost of care for an infant per week as 360 dollars per week, 255 dollars for toddlers and 220 dollars for preschool children. Child Care Centers are afforded the opportunity to request reimbursement at this rate and utilize this funding structure to create sliding scale fees for our parents, however we know based upon our budgets, the true cost of care is much higher when we factor in all of the variables associated with the cost. The average cost of care per child, the true cost of care is close to \$9,000.00 dollars per child, a most recent cost care analysis of child care done by one CUNY Center identifies that the true cost of care for 15 preschool children was 343,000 dollars a year.

Cost

The research from the Office of Children and Family Services supports the aforementioned. The data published by Child Care Aware, a hub for child care resources, estimated "the cost of Child Care for one year of full-time center-based childcare, for children who are infants through age four, is roughly \$9,247".

Another factor that supports this model is Universal Pre-Kindergarten better known as Pre-K for all, the reimbursement rates for Centers vary based upon the district and identified needs. The Bronx might receive a reimbursement rate of 3900.00 dollars for half day care per child per year while lower Manhattan might receive 3400.00. For a full day, the reimbursement rate might be as high as \$10, 00.00 dollars. Once again, these rates of reimbursement do not identify the actual cost to programs.

Benefits to Faculty

Our programs provide placements for students majoring in psychology, nursing, early childhood, accounting, business and liberal arts to name a few. These placements serve as a benefit to faculty and support continued collaborations across campus.

Most recent Decline in Child Care: A recent study by Gault, Milli and Curse from the Institute for Women's Policy and Research, indicates Child Care is expensive as well as difficult to access and notably declining on college campuses in recent years, this has been supported at CUNY by the most recent closures of City College Child Development Center, CUNY Law School's space and Queensborough Community College. For the first, City College shuttered its doors to provide much needed repairs to its Center and hopes to open very soon, CUNY Law closed and many families are utilizing slots procured at LaGuardia Community College and Queensborough Community College's Child Care Center, one funded solely by the Administration for Children's Services, was closed soon after the loss of its ACD Funding. Although QBCC does not currently have an active childcare center, the Child Care Council would be happy to assist CUNY Central and QBCC to explore and support the current needs of student parents at QBCC.

Additional funding is needed to support the re-opening of the City College Child Care Center. When City College closed, its funding was shifted to CUNY's newest on-campus child care center at York which opened in 2004. Previously, York did not receive city or state funding. As we anticipate the reopening of the City College Child Development Center, funding is needed to support childcare services for City College student parents.

As noted by the Public Advocates report, the report details the need for continued resources to support the existing 16 campus-based children's centers as well as recommendations. This will lead to further persistence, retention and graduation of our student parents. We are also grateful the Public Advocates Office understands as well as supports the need for greater resources and has decided to assist with endeavors to hopefully bring this to fruition. As we have often stated, CUNY Child Care has not received an increase in city funding for more than a decade.

Recommendations

Campus Children's Centers and our CUNY Research-division must work proactively to invest in a data driven system that identifies the impact, the benefits and the value of investing in child care centers.

Each campus must invest in increased marketing as well as raising visibility of its child care centers on campus

Abraham Maslow's theory specifies a hierarchy of needs in stage one, food, water and shelter. We must reframe the way in which we view child care on campus, it's not an ancillary service, child care is not a wraparound service, it is an integral part of college and is essential to our students' ability to succeed. In keeping with this, parents cannot persist and graduate worrying about the care needs of their children. The benefit and attraction to CUNY for so many of our students is its affordability, location and high quality for student parents, their children should be afforded the same.

Invest in research that truly depicts the number of students on campus with dependent children

Invest efforts to obtain funding, including working to create opportunities for increased funding to ensure programs are able to subsist during such a fiscally challenging time, writing grants together or help with seeking out funding collectively.

Continue to provide low cost to students, some students can barely afford a metro card and food, let alone the cost of child care, let's continue to provide support to our most needy families by way of scholarships and emergency funds to make it available to those who truly need care. Standardize the cost to students based upon current market rates. Presently, students pay different costs and many parents must choose between food and child care to stay in school. We cannot standardize costs, if we lack resources.

As we identify programs with low enrollment, let's work to identify ways we can increase enrollment collectively,

Pay equity for certified teachers and assistants across CUNY program, a recent study identifies the disparaging differences in pay among not for profit programs and public-school teachers with similar credentials

More vocal advocates for public funding such as Child Development Block Grant, Child Care Access Means parents in School (CCAMPIS), and change rather stringent requirements for students to obtain much needed child care subsidies

In addition, increased data will assist campuses with accurately identifying its student parent population. Additional data collection will also assist our early childhood educators with monitoring children's development needs this will further allow us to outline support needed on each campus. This can only lead to greater resources to support existing and future programs, families and children.

The Children's Centers at CUNY provide invaluable resources to faculty, staff and parents and could provide much more with additional funding and focus. As the largest public urban institution-serving families, we cannot do more with less

In the words of Children's Advocate Marian Wright Edelman, "the question is not whether we can afford to invest in every child, it's whether or not we can afford not to". Thank you for investing in children and families.

Good morning my name is Maria Hernandez. I am a proud mother of three beautiful children. My parents are descendants from Mexico. I was born in the Borough of Manhattan and I am a first-generation college graduate. I just completed my studies at Bronx Community College earlier this month. I arrived at Bronx Community College with a 9-year-old, a 4-year-old and a 3-year-old. I became a mom at 17. I attended BCC from 2012 to 2013 yet I earned no credits, I received WU's in all of my classes. I came back in 2016 and I sit before each of you a proud graduate headed to Lehman to obtain my undergraduate degree in social work. My son will take part in his graduation ceremony at BCC next week. While he is certainly not finished with his academic endeavors, this is one of several ceremonies he will experience, I am proud my child is reaching this important milestone at the same time as his mom. I am proud of my perseverance and the amazing support I received from the entire Bronx Community College Child Care Center.

If it weren't for the Center, I would have been unable to complete my studies. It was a difficult journey but well worth it. The program is high quality, affordable and welcoming. I would have been unable to study, persist and graduate if I did not have the option of child care on campus. I could not afford a program like the one at BCC without the affordable fees. Once I discovered the program, it just opened up a whole new world for me as well as my children, it was just amazing, the program helped me in some many ways. With my self-esteem, with my children's academic endeavors, obtaining assistance with other services on campus and more importantly a nurturing and supportive environment for my children. I could not have done it without the Early Childhood Center at BCC. I am grateful for the opportunity to speak about the benefits of campus child care. I am a living testimony campus child care is a powerful tool for children and families.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Tasha Lee

Address: 9 Murray street

I represent: NYPURG

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Emily Skydel

Address: 9 Murray street

I represent: NYPURG

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 14 June 18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Micelle Kim, Policy Associate

Address: _____

I represent: Public Advocate Letitia James

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

CUNY Panel 4 of 4

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/14/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Maria Hernandez

Address: _____

I represent: Student, BCC (Bronx Community College)

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

CUNY Panel 1 of 4

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/14/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Christopher Rosa

Address: Interim Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs

I represent: CUNY

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

THE COUNCIL CUNY Panel 2014
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/14/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kisha Vaughan

Address: University Manager of Child Care and Leadership Programs

I represent: CUNY

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

THE COUNCIL CUNY Panel 3014
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/14/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Cecelia Scott-Croft

Address: Director, BMCC Early Childhood Center

I represent: CUNY/BMCC

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms