



**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

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**STATEMENT BY THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
RE: WHISTLEBLOWER VETO**

Speaker Christine C. Quinn said, "City employees who report actions that jeopardize the welfare of a child should be lauded for their effort, not made to fear retribution. Current whistleblower law provides protections in some cases, but not all. The Council has expanded protections for whistleblowers to enable people to report harmful practices without fear of repercussions. We regret that the Mayor has chosen to veto this bill, and will be considering an override vote in the coming weeks.

Existing whistleblower law prohibits City employees from taking an adverse personnel action against another City employee who reports corruption, criminal activity, conflict of interest, gross mismanagement or abuse of authority. The recently passed legislation simply expands upon current protections to include reports of conduct that harms children but may not be covered under current law.

Education Committee Chair Robert Jackson said, "People who have the backbone to stand up in the face of wrongdoing should not be punished for reporting misdeeds. Disclosure and transparency are essential to good governance, but when we are talking about circumstances involving our children that is the minimum standard we must meet."

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