



Media Release

Monroe County Democratic Caucus

Monroe County Office Building
39 West Main Street, 4th Floor, Rm. 408
Rochester, NY 14614
P 585-753-1940 F 585-753-1946
www.democraticledger.org

For Immediate Release

Contact: Joe Rittler Phone: 753-1910 or 409-1894

Democrats Disappointed with Steep Day Care Cuts

Rochester, New York – August 1, 2008. Democrats in the Monroe County Legislature expressed shock and disappointment at today's announcement that Maggie Brooks intends on cutting the income threshold for day care subsidies from 165% to a disgraceful 125% of the federal poverty level. In real dollars, this means that a single mother must earn less than \$17,500 annually to qualify for day care subsidies, down from \$23,100 annually.

The change will have the effect of pushing many Monroe County families further into poverty by eliminating their ability to provide safe, quality child care so they can earn a living wage and raise their family. This change is the most severe in recent memory, even steeper than former County Executive Jack Doyle's cut down to 140% in 2002.

Legislator Carrie Andrews (D-Rochester) said, "Today's announcement is a slap in the face to the hard working families in our county that struggle to put food on the table while keeping their children safe. I strongly implore the Executive to reconsider this decision due to the long-term social and fiscal consequences it will reap to taxpayers. Numerous studies have proven the long-term cost reductions to criminal justice, education and health care expenditures when parents have access to safe, affordable child care. Simply put, this is the wrong direction for our county."

Democrats are committed to breaking down the financial barriers that prevent children from receiving safe, affordable child care and will fight further cuts in this area of critical importance to our community's most vulnerable citizens.

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