



Media Release

Monroe County Democratic Caucus

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For Immediate Release

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Democrats: Brooks Mismanagement Drove Child Care Cut

Rochester, New York – June 12, 2008. Democrats in the Monroe County Legislature are blasting the Brooks administration for a failure to exercise sound fiscal management of child care aid received from New York State. Today Brooks attacked Governor Paterson in an attempt to lay for her mismanagement on someone else.

For years the Monroe County administration has allowed child care funds to pile up, reaching \$7 million at one point. The State will not continue to provide aid if it is not utilized in previous years. Therefore, because the County failed to use child care subsidy aid funds, those funds have been reduced.

Over the past few years, the Democratic Caucus repeatedly attempted to raise the income eligibility level for child care subsidies, which currently stands at 165% of the poverty level (about \$25,000/yr for a family of 3). This would have increased the County's ability to utilize State aid. Also contributing to the County's inability to use all allocated child care subsidy funding is an alarming upward trend in the denial rate for child care subsidy applications.

A recent report from the Center for Governmental Research (CGR) found that the child care subsidy application rate jumped from 11 percent to 50 percent over six years, while the total number of children served plummeted from 13,575 to 8,400 during the same period.

Assistant Democratic Leader Carrie Andrews (D-Rochester) said, "If this administration was capable of fully using the allocated State aid, we wouldn't be in this situation. For the County Executive to blame anyone but herself is disingenuous at best. It's time for the political sniping to end. We need to start finding ways to truly address our challenges, and I would suggest a good place to start is ensuring everyone in our area has access to affordable, safe child care service that will enable single parents and low-income families to rise out of poverty and realize their full potential."

Please find the CGR report at the following link:

http://www.cgr.org/reports/07_R-1524_AccesstoSubsidizedChildCareinMC.pdf

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