Memorandum in Support
A.1196 (Jaffee)/S.2517 (Savino)

An act to amend the social services law, in relation to parents and caretakers who work a late shift.

This bill would add a new subdivision to Social Services Law 410-w and would require that when a parent with a young child is otherwise eligible to receive a child care subsidy, and works the night shift, the local district should authorize a subsidy so that the parent can sleep. Currently, this is a local option and most districts do authorize care for these families.

Parents who work nights often need child care so that they can sleep during the day if their children are young and not in school. Regulations currently permit, but do not require social services districts to provide a child care subsidy to financially eligible parents and caretakers who work second or third shifts and need child care for their young children in order to sleep.¹ Forty-five out of 58 social services districts do exercise this option and provide subsidized daytime child care for parents who need to sleep. For those living in the 13 social services districts that do not provide this option, life can be very difficult as sleep deprived parents juggle their need to sleep with caring for a young child.²

Even among the districts that provide this benefit, the local rules vary among districts. The majority of the districts, 29 in total, will fund up to 8 hours of subsidized child care for a parent who works second or third shift and needs to sleep during the day. Three districts, Broome Steuben and Suffolk, provide sleep care for less than 6 hours a night. An additional 12 districts pay for 6 hours of sleep care.³ Westchester County provides a child care subsidy for 7 hours of sleep care. This bill would require all districts to authorize up to 8 hours of care when such care was necessary for a working parent with a small child to sleep.

This bill will assure that low income parents with young children who work the night shift and need child care to get adequate sleep, will be able to do so regardless of where they live.

Winning Beginning NY strongly supports the passage of this bill.

April 17, 2013

¹ 18 NYCRR § 415.4(c)(3).
² The social services districts that do not authorize care for parents who work the night shift and who need care so that they can sleep during the day because they have young children are: Chenango, Clinton, Erie, Genesee, Hamilton, Nassau, New York City, Niagara, Orleans, Saratoga, Schenectady Sullivan, and Wyoming.
³ These districts are Cayuga, Chautauqua, Columbia, Franklin, Herkimer, Jefferson, Monroe, Seneca,, Tioga, Tompkins, Ulster and Warren.