



RESOLUTION 1516-129

TO: Members of the General Assembly

FROM: Marie Jackson, Secretary of the Monroe Community College SGA

DATE: April 15, 2016

TITLE: Childcare Funding Increase

Action Requested

SUNY Campuses are requested to provide better access to childcare for students with young children and the state of New York is requested to provide appropriate funding to SUNY childcare centers to facilitate better opportunities for student retention.

Resolution

We recommend that the Student Assembly of the State University of New York (SUNYSA) adopt the following resolution:

Whereas diversity on a college campus goes beyond just the color of one's skin or the nature of the environment in which you were raised, but in fact includes those students who have dependent children whom they may or may not be raising by themselves.

And,

Whereas a 2014 study by the Institute for Women's Policy Research found that 4.8 million college students in 2011 were parents of dependent children which constitutes about 26% of the undergraduate college students, of that percentage of students 71% are women. And,

Whereas 43% of the 4.8 million students were found to live below the federal poverty line during the 2011-2012 school year according to data from the Department of Education. And,

Whereas the average cost of childcare in New York State is \$330 per week for infants, \$255 per week for Toddlers, \$217 per week for Preschoolers, and \$210 per week for school age children. And,

Whereas per year those costs add up to between \$10,920 to \$17,160 which is significantly more than the average cost of tuition at a public university which is about \$6,170 per year. And,

Whereas students who are also parents need to put their children into a childcare situation in order to attend classes and those who do not have access to affordable childcare are more likely to leave school before graduating. And,
Whereas the State University of New York has 53 childcare centers spread across university campuses and community college campuses in New York State which currently educate approximately 5,000 children. And,

Whereas these SUNY childcare centers also provide on campus access to work-study, and internships for students who are studying fields child development, education, nursing, psychology, physical therapy, occupational therapy and more. And,

Whereas these childcare centers offer grants which subsidize the cost of childcare for the students of the college to provide them the opportunity to remain in school while their child receives a quality education; currently the grant is funding 1,500 children of students who are income eligible. And,

Whereas Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and Higher Education Committee Chair Deborah J. Glick released the final 2015-16 state budget which included increased funding to SUNY childcare centers of \$1.1 million which brings the total fund to \$2.1 million. And,

Whereas that \$2.1 million spread evenly across the 53 SUNY childcare centers is on average \$39,623 dollars each. And,

Whereas the operating cost of running a childcare center is approximately \$1.1 million per year per childcare center which means the state is on average funding 3% of the operating costs each year. Be it,

Resolved that the Student Assembly of the State University of New York calls for the State of New York to increase the funding for SUNY childcare centers to at least 10% of the operating cost. Be it further,

Resolved that the Student Assembly of the State University of New York shall forward copies of this Resolution to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, Lt. Governor Kathleen C. Hochul, the members of the New York State Legislature, the SUNY Board of Trustees, SUNY Chancellor Zimpher, University Faculty Senate, Faculty Council of Community Colleges, SUNY Campus Presidents, SUNY student governing bodies, and all other parties deemed necessary and proper.