

MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Prevent Child Abuse New York Calls on Legislature to Pass Legislation Protecting Children and Those Who Protect Them

Prevent Child Abuse New York strongly supports legislation protecting children by providing Child Protective Service workers with the most accurate and complete information possible during investigations of abuse and neglect, A.4425a (Mayersohn)/S.2978 (Robach).

A.4425a/S.2978 provides Child Protective Services access to criminal history backgrounds of adults residing within the homes of suspected abused, maltreated or neglected children and adults named in a report of child abuse, maltreatment or neglect.

A reasonable and valid assessment depends on full and reliable information about the adults living with the child or otherwise named as subjects of the report. Currently, Child Protective Service investigators do not have access to criminal record information databases that would enable them to immediately determine if a person named in the report has a violent criminal history or previously committed crimes against children.

Child Protective Service Workers, who do not have arrest authority, are required to put themselves in harm's way when investigating reports of child maltreatment. It's imperative that we not only protect these individuals, but also provide them with information to better prepare to respond to allegations of abuse or neglect through a more complete understanding of the risk and safety measures needed for them to conduct their investigations.

While we do not encourage the release of personal and confidential information to a broad audience, it is a necessary disclosure when it comes to protecting our children, and those that protect them. This legislation will help to better safeguard the wellbeing of our state's children.

Therefore, we ask the New York State Legislature to pass A.4425a/S.2978 today!

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