



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 4, 2010

Contact: Stephen Madarasz

(518) 257-1271

New law strengthens child care provider rights

Family child care providers across New York State and their union, CSEA, the Civil Service Employees Association, commend Governor David Paterson for signing S.7451/A.10764, allowing child care providers to organize themselves for the purposes of discussing with the State the conditions of their employment.

CSEA President Danny Donohue notes: "I applaud Governor Paterson, the State Senate and the State Assembly for this action. I congratulate CSEA's VOICE and CCPT member child care providers, and those represented by the UFT in New York City, who have worked since 2002 to gain recognition and negotiate an agreement. We know that investing in early learning and care produces both short-term and long-term returns for our communities and our State."

The legislation enacts into law the Executive Order signed by Governor Eliot Spitzer in 2007 granting independent child care providers the right to union recognition.

Family child care provider Cassandra Stanfield of Syracuse said, "Passing this legislation is an important step in securing the foundation for family child care we've worked to build since 2002. As a member of VOICE/CSEA, I have more support than I've ever had running my program. That means I can provide the quality, nurturing early care and learning that children need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond."

VOICE/CSEA member Roxanne Savage from Long Island stated, "There are over 14,000 registered family and licensed group family child care providers and 53,000 informal child care providers in New York. The work we do every day keeps parents earning and children learning. In signing this bill, Governor Paterson shows our state is committed to supporting children, families and our child care workforce."

CSEA's VOICE and CCPT child care organizations have ratified first Agreements with the NYS Office of Children and Family Services. The Agreements include quality program grants and expand opportunities for professional development and affordable health insurance. In addition, VOICE and CCPT members are working to secure federal dollars for child care subsidies and the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

###