

July 8, 2011

Honorable Andrew Cuomo  
Governor of New York  
Executive Chamber  
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We understand that the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services have asked states to declare their intent to apply for Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) funds by July 15, 2011.

On behalf of *Winning Beginning NY (WBNY)*, the state's early care and learning coalition, we encourage you to confirm New York's intent to apply. The *WBNY* coalition is eager to support the state in submitting the strongest possible application. These resources are essential to move toward a system of service delivery that improves access to high-quality services for the state's most at-risk children.

Many of our members also serve on the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) and in that capacity have focused on the critical priorities in the RFP, including establishment of a comprehensive and robust quality rating and improvement system (QUALITYstarsNY), coordination of data systems, development and implementation of early learning guidelines, and strengthening of the connection between early childhood and K-12 education.

*WBNY* is eager to support your office in this initiative and looks forward to working with you.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Kate Breslin  
President and CEO  
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy



Marsha Basloe  
Executive Director  
Early Care and Learning Council



Kristen Kerr  
Executive Director  
NYS Association for the Education  
of Young Children



Nancy Kolben  
Executive Director  
Center for Children's Initiatives

cc: Kristin Proud