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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



JESSICA SCARCELLA-SPANTON
SENATOR, 23RD DISTRICT

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June 16, 2026

Commissioner Sandra Escamilla-Davies
New York City Department of Youth and Community Development
2 Lafayette Street, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Commissioner Davies,

I am writing in strong support of Children's Aid and its continued leadership of the after-school programs at the Goodhue Center and I.S. 61 on Staten Island. I was recently informed by Sarah Jonas, Vice President of the Youth Division at Children's Aid, that the amount of seats in the programs across both sites will be cut from 300 to 60, a drastic reduction that will negatively impact this community.

Children's Aid was notified of these cuts in June, leaving very little time before the end of the school year for families to plan their afterschool care for the fall. In addition to the last minute notification, there was also very limited explanation given as to how this decision came to be and no opportunity for Children's Aid to appeal the decision. Those who have used these services for years at both I.S. 61 and the Goodhue Center deserve an explanation for this substantial change, and I urge DYCD to provide more information to the community.

As the New York State Senator representing both The Goodhue Center and I.S. 61, I have seen firsthand the critical role these afterschool programs play within this community. The Children's Aid team has built longstanding relationships with students, families, and school leadership, and possesses a deep understanding of the needs of the community. Their ability to provide meaningful support to local families has made them trusted partners within the community, and these cuts will be detrimental for children who are no longer able to receive these services.

Given its years of dedicated service and history of delivering meaningful programming to the community, I strongly urge you to reconsider this decision and reinstate the Children's Aid seats at the Goodhue Center and I.S. 61. Their continued presence at these locations would ensure much needed continuity of care for the students and families who rely on these services. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please feel free to contact me at 718-727-9406 or spanton@nysenate.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Scarcella-Spanton".

Jessica Scarcella-Spanton
NYS Senator, District 23