

# *New York State Citizen Review Panels*

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## **MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT**

### **S4765 (Montgomery) / A 3473 (Scarborough)**

*AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to standards for workloads for child protective services caseworkers.*

For the past two years, the New York State Citizen Review Panels have called for enactment of legislation which would provide the State Office of Children and Family Services the authority to set workload standards for child welfare workers. This bill would allow OCFS to set such standards and ask that local districts be in compliance by 2014. The bill allows that no district would have to increase their workforce by more than 25% in any single year. This bill addresses the need for workload standards for child protective, preventive, foster care, and adoption services.

The workforce simply can not keep children safe with workloads that are nearly double the recommended standard. Yet workers are asked to be accountable for the difficult decisions they make without being given adequate time to do their job. The 2006 Walter R. McDonald & Associates New York Workload Study recommended workloads between 12:1 and 16:1 dependent upon the position's responsibilities. Over time, the system has accepted more reports for investigation and asked more of child welfare workers without consideration of the capacity of the system to meet these mandates and without sustainable investments in the workforce. Such a reduction will allow workers more face-to-face time with clients, increased ability to assess and meet families' needs, and should improve turnover.

The New York State Citizen Review Panels strongly support S4765/A3473 and urge you to support this bill as well.

June 2, 2009