

New York State Citizen Review Panels

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July 25, 2007

Mr. David Nocenti
Counsel to the Governor
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Re: SUPPORT for A6610b / S4009b Differential Response

Dear Mr. Nocenti:

We are writing on behalf of the New York City Citizen Review Panel in support of A6610/S4009 which would amend social services law to permit a differential response for child protection across New York State. While we are disappointed that New York City's Administration for Children's Services will be excluded from considering a differential response, we support its implementation elsewhere in the state.

Our support of this legislation stems from our interest in protecting the safety of children while improving outcomes for children and families involved in New York's child welfare system. A differential response supports families assigned to an assessment track by allowing a less intrusive, yet service oriented approach. This approach offers a sound alternative that maintains an emphasis on child safety while supporting the state's efforts to engage families.

Differential response is a non-adversarial approach that can improve local districts use of staff resources, enhance prevention efforts, and heighten receptivity to services. We urge the Governor to sign this legislation.

Sincerely,



David Lansner
Co-Chair, New York City Panel



Eric Brettschneider
Co-Chair, New York City Panel

cc: David Rose
Dennis Whalen
Kristin Proud