

# LEGISLATURE PASSES THE CHILD POVERTY REDUCTION ACT: ACTION NOW NEEDED FROM THE GOVERNOR



## WHAT'S AT STAKE

**Child poverty is an urgent and preventable crisis in New York.** Prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, one in every five New York children – nearly 800,000 of the youngest New Yorkers - lived in poverty. Black and Hispanic children in New York are more than twice as likely as their white peers to live in poverty. As New York strives to rebound from the unprecedented hardships of the pandemic, our State *must* center the youngest and most vulnerable New Yorkers in its recovery. Accordingly, **the Children's Defense Fund – New York (CDF-NY) urges Governor Hochul to immediately sign and enact the Child Poverty Reduction Act** ([S. 2755C Ramos](#) / [A. 1160C Bronson](#)).



## NEW YORK'S PATH FORWARD: THE CHILD POVERTY REDUCTION ACT



**Governor Hochul can lay a strong foundation towards the fight to end child poverty by signing the Child Poverty Reduction Act.** The Act makes a

public commitment to cut our state's child poverty rate in half within ten years and requires an annual public report of the effects of budget proposals on child poverty in New York. The Act also establishes the Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council to develop a plan towards achieving this critical goal. The Child Poverty Reduction Act is the right solution to end child poverty. We have the research. We have the means. Now all we need is the political will and the plan that the Act will help create.

## CHILD POVERTY IS A MORAL CRISIS

Poverty harms our children. Children living in poverty are more likely to be hungry, less likely to have affordable health coverage, less likely to graduate from high school and more likely to be unemployed and live in poverty as adults. In the words of Children's Defense Fund's Founder and President Emerita, Marian Wright Edelman, child poverty "is a moral disgrace and profound economic threat." Let's work together to end it now.

### WHAT YOUTH IN NEW YORK ARE SAYING

*"There were times when I would stop bringing textbooks and notebooks to school to make space in my backpack to take home as many school meals as possible...**Passing this bill will put us closer to the right and just direction our families and children need.**"*

**Digna Castillo**  
CDF-NY Beat the Odds® Scholar & Advocate

*"I hope to make a change because it is important to me to destigmatize and demystify poverty...Despite feeling like we are alone, the truth is we are not. Too many families live in poverty; **we have to take necessary steps towards ending childhood poverty.**"*

**Norma Degante**  
CDF-NY Beat the Odds® Scholar & Advocate

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