



## Vote **YES** on A.3657/S. 2091, so that Mathew and Ben can Learn and Play.

Mathew is three years old. His mother works hard to support him, but her paycheck barely covers rent, utilities and food. When she applied for a child care subsidy, she was told that she had to get a child support order. Mathew's father is incarcerated for a violent crime and has no income to pay child support.

Mathew's mother does not get paid if she misses work. She has no personal or vacation days and she would miss at least 4 days of work going to court to get a useless child support order since Dad has no income.

She wants to enroll Mathew in a child care center where he would be safe and would get the educational support and social interaction that he so desperately needs. But, if she misses work, she will not be able to pay the rent. So Mathew sits with a neighbor, watching TV all day, instead of getting the quality care that he deserves.

Four year old Ben has a child support order. His brother James is 12 years old. Ben's mom applied for a child care subsidy so that Ben could attend the local YMCA child care center. She was denied because she would not sue James's father, who has severe substance abuse problems and has had nothing to do with the family since before James was born. The last Ben's mom knew, he had been evicted from a homeless shelter because of his addiction problems.

Ben's mom does not want or need child day care for James. Nevertheless, Ben was denied a child care subsidy because his mom would not sue his big brother's father. So Ben sits with a neighbor watching TV all day until his brother James gets home from school. Then he watches James play video games until his mom gets home from work.

Ben wishes he could be at the YMCA where the kids have fun and learn, but his mom can not afford it.