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June 5, 2012

Honorable Michael Bloomberg  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

I am writing in opposition to the proposed budget cuts to our City's childcare and afterschool programs for the coming fiscal year, FY 2013. The proposed cuts would create an extreme economic hardship for the working families in New York City, particularly in the Bronx. Approximately 47,000 children citywide, are at risk of losing childcare and afterschool programs due to these cuts, which would be devastating to the working families in this city.

Access to affordable childcare and early childhood programs are vital to our communities, and offer critical support to working parents. The \$52.94 million in budget cuts must be restored to the existing child care services. Further, the Early Learn NYC program must be funded adequately to ensure that the same number of children have access to this new, higher-quality services.

Without safe, affordable and high-quality options for afterschool programs, many working families will be forced to make the difficult decision of either making alternative, less stable arrangements for their children or leaving the workforce altogether. It is well documented that early childhood learning opportunities lead to more positive education outcomes later on. Such positive, reliable and structured activities for school-age children afterschool can help a child's development, safety and academic performance.

The families of New York City must continue to have access to quality services and afterschool programming. We must work to make sure that all of our Bronx students are prepared for success in and out of school and that we provide safe alternatives to during after school hours.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ruben'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Ruben Diaz Jr.