

New York State Citizen Review Panels

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July 28, 2005

Governor George Pataki
State of New York
Executive Chamber
Albany, NY 12224

RE: S1574-A - Dual Track Response Demonstration Project

Dear Governor Pataki,

We have yet another opportunity to move on legislation that can change the "front door" of Child Protective Services. On behalf of the Eastern New York Citizens Review Panel for Child Protective Services, we request you sign this important legislation.

This project is designed to minimize the adversarial relationship that results from the initiation of a child protective investigation and substitute a service-based approach in less serious cases of child abuse or maltreatment. The most serious cases of child abuse and neglect would still be subject to a full-fledged CPS investigation. This bill provides that seven social services districts be selected to participate in the demonstration project and delineates the procedure to be followed by the social services district when implementing the provisions of the project.

The New York State Citizen Review Panel members are appointed in accordance with Chapter Law 136 of the Laws of 1999, commonly referred to as the Governor's Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (State CAPTA) bill Section 371-b of the Social Services Law, which brought New York State into compliance with Federal CAPTA requirements.

As citizens so appointed and who have dutifully met, discussed, researched, deliberated and formulated thoughtful recommendations, we are concerned that our voices be heard as expressed in our prior four years of annual reports. We request you act on our recommendations on dual track legislation and that you affirm our considerable work.

Sincerely,

Stacy Alvord, MSW
Chair, Eastern Citizen Review Panel