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COUNTY OF ALBANY  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
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ERIN M. STACHEWICZ  
ACTING COMMISSIONER

VALERIE SACKS  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

September 23, 2024

Hon. Joanne Cunningham, Chairwoman  
Albany County Legislature  
112 State St., Room 710  
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Chairwoman Cunningham:

The Department of Social Services respectfully requests legislative approval for the authorization for the Department of Social Services (DSS) to renew a subcontract with NYS-approved vendor, Brightside Up, Inc. to complete registration and inspection of all childcare providers in Albany County; conduct comprehensive evaluations and reviews of health and safety requirements, criminal history checks, child abuse and maltreatment checks, investigations of complaints against providers; and provide outreach to low income neighborhoods in a focused effort to network and continually develop family day care providers. Brightside Up also assists families in finding safe and qualified childcare and provides training to providers and parents on topics such as early learning and development, and nutrition and physical activity.

The Brightside Up contract will be funded in the amount of \$292,983 with federal pass through funding provided by the NYS Office of Children and Family.

Sincerely,

Erin M. Stachewicz  
Acting Commissioner

cc: Dennis A. Feeney, Majority Leader  
Frank A. Mauriello, Minority Leader  
Rebekah Kennedy, Majority Counsel  
Arnis Zilgme, Minority Counsel