



FEDERATION OF PROTESTANT WELFARE AGENCIES

Youth Education & Employment (YEE) Campaign

FPWA is leading efforts to help link disconnected youth, particularly those aging out of the foster care system, to workforce development and higher education opportunities. With strong leadership from Assemblymembers Susan John and William Scarborough, FPWA has been working on legislation that would create a **Young Worker Earned Income Tax Credit** and a **Higher Education Scholarship Program for Foster Care Youth**.

These initiatives would set the State on a strong course for the future by offering youth with the lowest incomes and greatest disadvantages a modest tax credit that could supplement their income and a scholarship program that could put a college degree within their reach.

[Young Worker Earned Income Tax Credit \(EITC\) – A.4875 \(John\)](#)

The EITC is a valuable work support for low-income individuals, lifting many families out of poverty. For childless workers age 25 and over, the combined federal and state EITC provides up to approximately \$570 for the current tax year (2009). However, workers under age 25 without children are still excluded from receiving this critical financial work support. By extending eligibility to this population, we could reward the contribution made by young adults to our state's economy and create an incentive for currently unemployed youth to enter the workforce. This legislation would provide a state-funded EITC to young low-income workers without children ages 17–24 who would be eligible for the EITC under the federal rules, but for the minimum age requirement applied to childless workers. The estimated State cost based on 22,000 eligible youth in Year One would be \$1.4 million, assuming a 20% take-up rate.

[Foster Care Higher Education Scholarships – A.6002 \(Scarborough\)](#)

This bill would create a scholarship program to help older and former foster care youth meet the total costs of attending an in-state undergraduate program or vocational training program. Higher education can mean the difference between a dead-end job with no possibilities and an employment opportunity with higher wages, benefits, and room for advancement. FPWA has been working with AM Scarborough on Pilot legislation to create a scholarship program that improves access to higher education for one of New York State's most vulnerable populations, older and former foster care youth. After accounting for other grant awards (not loans) received through FAFSA, TAP, and the Education and Training Vouchers program, assistance under this scholarship program would help qualifying students meet the total remaining costs of attendance, including tuition, fees, and living expenses such as room and board, books, and transportation. This Pilot program, aimed at 330 students, would cost approximately \$2.1 million.

The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies (FPWA) is a membership organization with close to 300 member agencies and church-based human service programs that serve an estimated 1.5 million low-income New Yorkers in communities throughout New York City. For information, please visit: www.fpwa.org. For more information about the YEE Campaign, please contact Nicole Lavan, Senior Policy Analyst for Child Welfare and Workforce Development, nlavan@fpwa.org, (212) 801-1376.