

Advocate for affordable and safe day care

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support and endorsement of Kitley Covill, candidate for county legislator.

I've been a preschool teacher in northern Westchester for 15 years and I've seen firsthand the struggles so many parents go through to obtain safe, good-quality care for their children. For many families, the expense is overwhelming.

But the current county administration saw fit to cut child care subsidies dramatically, forcing many low-income families to have to choose between paying bills and routine family expenses, and placing their children in safe, regulated day care. Some families have no choice but to keep one parent at home, placing them at further financial risk.

Several recent studies found that preschool programs can give low-income students lasting benefits in

elementary school. At least one study found the benefits of preschool paying off for individuals, and society, into adult life.

I have known Ms. Covill for over 30 years. As both a working mother and as an attorney with an extensive career advocating for social services, she knows firsthand the importance of affordable, available, safe and regulated preschool and day care. Kitley believes that it is critical to fund child care programs — especially for low income families — at a level where they can afford to continue working and also support their families. As the research shows, this benefits all of us.

I know that Kitley will work passionately for working parents. Please join me in supporting Kitley for county legislator. And vote for Kitley in November!

Debra Cohen
Goldens Bridge