

## Memorandum in Support

### COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND THE LAW

Children #4

April 30, 2019

S. 2714

By: Senator Savino

A. 569

By: M. of A. Jaffee

Senate Committee: Children and Families

Assembly Committee: Children and Families

Effective Date: 60 days after it shall have become a law.

**AN ACT** to amend the social services law, in relation to services for relative and not-relative kinship caregivers.

**LAW AND SECTIONS REFERRED TO:** Section 392 of the Social Services Law.

This bill would ensure that local districts inform both contacted caregivers and potential caregivers about services, and that local districts establish referral procedures which connect all kinship families with the local kinship programs, or, when applicable, permanency resource centers.

Currently, the NYS Kinship Navigator is an information, referral and advocacy program for kinship caregivers in New York State. A kinship caregiver is an individual that is caring for a child that is not biologically their own. In New York State, there are an estimated 179,000 caregivers, 131,000 of whom are grandparents and other family members. The Committee on Children and Law supports children remaining in the care and custody of a kinship caregiver when such caregiver is available and wholly supports all such resources and funding being allocated as such.

Accordingly, the Committee Supports this bill to ensure the dissemination of all such information to kinship caregivers.