



**County  
Health Officials  
of New York**

Leading the way to healthier communities

# **SUPPORTS**

## **A8136 (PAULIN)**

**AN ACT to amend the public health law and the social services law, in relation to children's non-regulated camps**

**The New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO) supports** the above-referenced legislation which requires non-regulated children's camps to perform background checks on employees and volunteers.

Most youth-oriented organizations require that volunteers and staff agree to background checks, to protect children from individuals with a history of child abuse or maltreatment, or who were convicted for sexual assault related crimes. Regulated children's summer camps are required to perform these checks already. NYSACHO believes that extending this requirement to non-regulated children's camps is in-line the best practices of similar youth organizations, such as recreational sports leagues and youth service clubs such as scouting. The bill also assures that these background checks will be performed at the numerous single purpose camps that run throughout the year, not just during the summer months.

This legislation will help protect children from individuals with a known history of abusive or predatory behavior towards children and provide parents with the assurance that non-regulated camps have performed due diligence in their hiring and volunteer recruitment processes. NYSACHO therefore recommends that the bill be enacted into law.

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