



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Children's Studies News Releases

State Senate Passes Independent Office of the Child Advocate Bill

(Brooklyn, NY) After six years, legislation for an independent Office of the Child Advocate passed both the New York State Assembly and Senate, and will now go before the Governor. "S6877 Parker Same as A 3233-B Clark" passed the NYS Senate on June 24th, 2010. A3233-B with A.M. Clark as main sponsor passed the NYS Assembly on February 9, 2010. **A03233B same as S6877 "establishes the independent office of child advocate to ensure the protection and promotion of legal rights for youth in juvenile justice facilities; repeals certain provisions relating to the office of the ombudsman."** The bill was initially introduced in 2004 following the Children's Studies *Policy Symposium: Children and the Law in New York*. Complete proceedings, legislative history, testimonies, related audio, support documents, and current legislation can be found on the Children's Studies website at

<http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/pub/departments/childrensstudies/1583.htm>

Children's Studies Center Initiatives Highlighted in U.S. Report

Very much connected to the success of the child advocate legislation is the Children's Studies innovative *Child Policy Forum of New York* series and its work on the human and civil rights of children and young people in New York State. On January 22, 2010, the Department of State of the United States released its official Report to the U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child: *First Periodic Report Concerning the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography [OPSC] and Response to Recommendations in Committee Concluding Observations of June 25, 2008* (Full report: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/hr/treaties/index.htm>) The report highlighted, in paragraphs 102 and 103, the Brooklyn College Children's Studies Center as an example of the "essential role of academic and nonprofit institutions," both with regard to the *Third Child Policy Forum of New York* at the Church Center of the United Nations on the *Optional Protocol* and to its policy research and work on the independent Office of the Child Advocate (the latter a recommendation to the U.S. for the implementation of OPSC by the U.N. Committee.) Proceedings and information about the *Child Policy Forum of New York* can be found on the Children's Studies website at <http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/pub/departments/childrensstudies/1590.htm>.

Children's Studies was most recently honored for its publication of the *Proceedings of the Third Child Policy Forum of New York on the Implementation and Monitoring of the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography* at the Brooklyn College Library Annual Book Reception on May 11, 2010.

Children's Studies Program Bachelor of Arts Degree in Children's Studies is

a Major Success

Since September 2009, over 160 students have declared Children's Studies as a single or double major and 14 students graduated with a CHST major this June. The original proposal for the CHST major envisioned 129 CHST majors as the goal for the fifth year of its existence, meaning that Children's Studies has already surpassed its fifth year goal. In addition, Children's Studies has several hundred CHST minors and concentrators, 58 of whom graduated this June as well. Congratulations to all the Children's Studies graduates!

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