

Lubertha Payne
620 Southern Ave. SE Washington, DC 20032
October 16, 2015

District of Columbia Zoning Commission
Case No. 15-17 (Text Amendment – Child Development Homes)
441 4th St. NW, Suite 220
Washington, DC 20001

Statement of Support

I, Lubertha Payne, am writing in support of the text amendment to allow Expanded Child Development Homes for up to 12 children. My Child Development Home, Bert's Family Child Care, is in Ward 8. My business has been open for almost 10 years. I currently can care for up to 6 children in my program, and this change will allow me to increase the amount of children I can care for.

I am advocating for this change so that I can better serve the community of parents in my neighborhood participate in the subsidy program too, so that I can care for any children who may need high quality child care. Family Child Care is an important option – the care is more intimate, we can explore the neighborhood together, and the group is smaller than most centers (even if we are able to expand to 12), so children benefit from close contact with their caregivers, and the multi-age group makes it feel like a homey, family setting. In the past, I have had to tell parents that I can only take one, not both of, their children due to available slots, and so families have had to put their children in multiple child care homes or centers – if Child Development Homes could have more slots, it would increase the chances that parents who prefer this option could keep their children together, in the same program.

If I could increase the revenue that comes into my program (which would only be possible if I could care for more children), I would be able to make important changes to improve the quality of my program. With more income, I plan to make my program more accessible for children with special needs (which may require ramps) I could fix up my backyard so that there could be more outdoor space for the children in my program. I could put a bathroom on the first floor, which would make it easier for potty-trained children to exercise their independence and use the bathroom without being accompanied upstairs by an adult.

During pick-up and drop-off, parents come at staggered times. They park in law-abiding ways, and there is ample parking around my house, and a clear alleyway behind my house. If the program were to increase to 12 children, I don't think that this would have any significant or negative impacts on my neighborhoods.

Child Development Homes offer a unique option for parents – care in a provider's home, in their neighborhood, in a small, warm, and welcoming environment. If we have the option of expanding our programs for up to 12 children, we will be able to offer this option to more children and families in DC.

Thank you,



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EXHIBIT NO. 7
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