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Alethea Etinoff
3229 15th Pl SE Washington, DC 20020
October 13, 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, Alethea Etinoff, am writing in support of the text amendment to allow Expanded Child Development Homes for up to 12 children. My Child Development Home, Point of Care Child Care, is in Ward 8. My business has been opened for 2.5 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.

Currently, I am operating from 6am-1:30am. I need to be open so many hours so that I can make ends meet – my financial obligations (mortgage, curriculum for my program, and other aspects of running and high-quality program in a city with a very expensive cost of living) are very high. If I could expand my program to have more children, I would bring in more revenue, and I would be able to work less hours, which would allow me to do more thorough planning for my program and give me more time to devote to supporting my own family. As it is, with such small programs, it is hard for Child Development Home providers to make ends meet, and many have to go out of business because of this. I am at DC's Silver Tier for subsidized care, awaiting my Accreditation Observation (which will, if I pass, move me up to the Gold Tier, which is the city's gold standard of care). The costs of seeking Accreditation are very high; if I could expand my program to serve more children, I could continue to improve my program, and continue to offer quality, affordable childcare for families participating in the subsidy program.

If Child Development Homes could care for more children, it would decrease the need city-wide for infant and toddler child care, and decrease the stress of parents scrambling to find child care. It would increase the possibility that parents could keep their children together, at the same program, and that they could find child care options which are convenient for them (close to work or home).

As for concerns that this might increase traffic in my neighborhood: Within my community, there are three elementary schools, a rec center, and a middle school. The impact on traffic, or noise, by increasing the number of children in my program, will not disturb my neighbors. My drop-off and pick-up times are staggered, so there is never a rush of parents on my block, since they come by at different times based on their individual needs.

Thank you,

Alethea Etinoff, director at Point of Care Child Care

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