

To Whom It May Concern,

Anyone that has had a child in Washington, DC knows the extremely difficult and arduous (not to mention expensive) experience of finding dependable and safe child care for their child. My husband and I had the absolute fortune of finding Petite Scholars once we moved to the Brookland neighborhood of DC last year (we currently lived in Trinidad since 2011). It came highly recommended, and once we met La Shada and toured the campuses, we knew Petite Scholars was the right place for our daughter. It is extremely worrisome, stressful, and detrimental to our family to hear that DC Office and Planning is considering making changes that could disastrously affect Petite Scholars ability to operate, and in turn, turn ours and our daughter's lives upside down.

I am writing in support of revoking the regulations that would prohibit Petite Scholars from operating. I see that Mayor Bowser is promoting measure to open new centers and help the citizens of DC with the dire (and growing) issue of child care (<https://osse.dc.gov/release/mayor-bowser-kicks-education-week-announces-major-child-care-expansion-administration>), so surely Mayor Bowser must also realize the benefits of keeping our current facilities open. I implore you to revoke the regulation that requires hearings for childcare centers in certain types of zoned commercial spaces, and the mandate of onsite play areas. Surely DC should instead find ways to keep our current facilities open, and not close centers (especially ones as amazing & critical as Petite Scholars) that parents like myself, currently depend on. Childcare should be a right for all citizens of DC - something that should be easier to find, dependable, and affordable (especially for lower income families that need it).

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Concerned parents & 10 year DC residents,  
Bree & Andy Ryback