

February 6, 2018

Zoning Commission  
441 4th Street, NW  
Suite 200S  
Washington, DC 20001  
Re: Supports for Zoning Commission Case No. 17-20

Dear Members of the Commission:

I am writing in support of the proposed text amendment known as Zoning Commission Case No. 17-20. I am a parent of a young child in DC and have had firsthand experience with the difficulty of finding convenient, quality, and affordable childcare. Also, as a parent of a child at Petit Scholars in Brookland, DC, we are familiar with the cost and the consequences that zoning restrictions have on childcare centers and the working parents that rely on them. These difficulties have a ripple effect to local businesses and workplaces that employ the affected parents.

High quality child care is in high demand in the District of Columbia. There have been numerous news articles and reports documenting the shortage of child care facilities to meet the increased demand by young families that are choosing to remain in the city once they have a child. This situation became very apparent and very personal when I was searching for child care close to my house for my son after my maternity leave. My family had to make the hard choice for my husband to work nights and weekends and take care of our son during the day because we could not find a daycare with available openings in our neighborhood. Finally, Petit Scholars on Rhode Island Ave was planned. We were extremely excited to have this high-quality care option so close to our house. However, the zoning restrictions resulted in us having to find new work-arounds for daytime care for our son until the center could finally open, months after originally planned.

I therefore urge the Commission to expeditiously approve the proposed corrections and reinstate the permitted use for childcare centers.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Leonhardt  
Ward 5