

## **Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)**

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**From:** VJ Kapur <vj@vjkapur.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 8, 2018 9:02 AM  
**To:** DCOZ - ZC Submissions (DCOZ)  
**Subject:** Letter in Support of BZA 17-20

To whom it may concern:

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 in the city.

My daughter attends Petit Scholars on Rhode Island Avenue, so I am familiar with the negative impact that zoning restrictions can have on childcare supply. Due to the change in zoning requirements in 2017, our daycare was delayed in opening and we had to drive across the neighborhood to transport her to another campus, adding unnecessary car traffic in a congested area. With the opening of the Rhode Island Avenue location, my family can thankfully walk to daycare, and patronize local businesses along the way.

In our case we were lucky to be able to send her to another campus, but many parents did not have that option and had to struggle to find alternate child care or take time off of work while waiting for Petit Scholars to be granted their zoning exemption. These challenges have a ripple effect to local businesses and workplaces that employ the affected parents.

While I've been very supportive of the 2016 Zoning Regulations revisions, I believe the new capacity restrictions on childcare centers in MU zones to be misguided, and I question the motivation for their inclusion. The appropriate capacity of a childcare center is a fairly specialized issue that should primarily be determined by the Office of the State Superintendent for Education (OSSE), which already has such requirements. An additional overlapping requirement in the zoning code seems wholly unnecessary to me.

As the District grows, affordable and convenient childcare is of the utmost importance, and requirements such as these will suppress supply and raise costs for families hoping to remain in, or relocate to, our neighborhoods. I therefore urge the Commission to expeditiously approve the proposed corrections and reinstate the permitted use for childcare centers.

Sincerely,

Vijay Kapur  
1923 Rhode Island Ave. NE  
Ward 5