



May 7, 2020

Dear Mayor Bowser,

Representing more than 40 diverse organizations that understand the importance of providing strong support for the District's youngest residents and their families, the Under 3 DC Coalition is uniquely connected to experts in early care and education. Our coalition members bring experience and deep knowledge, some of which comes from listening to and amplifying the voices of parents and educators.

While we appreciate that the District is thoughtfully preparing for the prospect of reopening schools, nonprofits, and businesses once the COVID-19 crisis is under control, **we are troubled by the lack of representation from the early care and education community on the ReOpen DC Committee for Education and Childcare.** In order to develop a comprehensive and practical plan for reopening the District's early care and education systems, the ReOpen DC Committee must include early care and education practitioners, including child care providers and families who use their services. We recommend you include representatives from the range of child care provider types, including home-based and center-based providers, those who participate in the child care subsidy program, and those who do not. No one-size-fits-all policy will address the challenges of diverse families and providers. Crafting and operationalizing a successful, responsive policy requires the expertise of individuals who understand the nuances of the early care and education landscape in DC. We recommend that you include the following individuals and organizations in the ReOpen DC Education and Child Care committee:

- Myrna Peralta, CentroNia
- Gail Govoni, United Planning Organization
- Cynthia Davis, DC Family Child Care Association
- Pyper Davis, Educare DC
- Angeliqe Speight, Parent and Community Leader
- Jamal Berry, President of D.C. Head Start Association

We recognize the importance of stabilizing systems and structures in order to help all District residents and institutions recover from the current economic crisis, and child care is foundational for enabling the District to get back to work. We want to make sure there are people at the table who can guide the District in safely reopening our city's many and varied child care facilities in compliance with new and evolving public health precautions that will protect our youngest residents, their families, and caregivers from any possible COVID-19 related health risks. Please know that the Under 3 DC Coalition is a resource for you and we appreciate your consideration of the experts we recommended to serve on the ReOpen DC Committee for Education and Childcare.

Sincerely,

Under 3 DC Coalition

Under 3 DC Coalition Members

Advocates for Justice and Education
 Apple Tree Institute
 Bright Beginnings
 CentroNia
 Children's Law Center
 Community of Hope
 DC Abortion Fund
 DC Action for Children
 DC American Academy of Pediatrics
 DC Appleseed Center for Law & Justice
 DC Association for the Education of
 Young Children
 DC Early Learning Collaborative
 DC Family Child Care Association
 DC Fiscal Policy Institute
 DC Hunger Solutions
 DC Jobs with Justice
 DC Working Families

Educare DC
 Fair Budget Coalition
 Faith Strategies
 Jews United for Justice
 Mamatoto Village
 Many Languages One Voice
 Martha's Table
 Mary's Center
 MomsRising
 National Children's Center
 National Women's Law Center
 NOVA Birth Partners
 Parents Amplifying Voices in Education (PAVE)
 Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington
 SPACEs in Action
 The Early Childhood Innovation Network
 United Planning Organization

For more information, please contact:

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About Under 3 DC

Under 3 DC, a broad based coalition in the District of Columbia, harnesses the voices and power of parents with young children, early educators, advocates, and health professionals to create transformative social change. The Coalition's efforts center on the people experiencing racial and economic injustice every day. It shines a spotlight on the need for more public investments to support families with infants and toddlers. Together, we can set the city on a path to creating and sustaining a high quality, equitable early childhood system.