ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3E
TENLEYTOWN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PARK FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS
CHEVY CHASE WAKEFIELD FORT GAINES
c/o Lisner Home 5425 Western Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20015
www.anc3e.com

April 3, 2025

Dear Mayor Bowser and Councilmembers:

I am writing this letter on behalf of ANC3E to urge you to fully fund DC's Pre-K Enhancement and Expansion Program (PKEEP).

As you know, this program provides essential early childhood education through Community Based Organizations (CBOs), allowing parents to work while ensuring their children receive high-quality early learning opportunities. In and around our ANC, Communikids, St. Alban's Childcare Center and Two Birds are all PKEEP operators, together providing over 300 free PK3 and PK4 seats in the Ward (there are over 1,000 PKEEP seats citywide).

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) recently announced that free Pre-K through PKEEP may not be available for the 2025-26 school year. This in turn has led PKEEP operators across the city to send letters to participating families urging them to pursue other options in the school lottery because PKEEP funding was not guaranteed in next year's budget. We have heard from many upset constituents about this unfortunate development.

Without your action, families across the District could lose access to affordable, high-quality early education for their young children.

We understand that you are operating in a difficult political environment with complexity and uncertainty surrounding next year's budget, and difficult choices must be made. Nevertheless, we strongly urge you to prioritize funding for the PKEEP program thereby prioritizing early childhood education in the District.

Sincerely,

/s/

Matthew Cohen

ANC3E, Vice Chair