

December 1, 2020

Dear assembly,

I would like to thank you for the day care assistance grant that has helped ease the financial difficulties caused by Covid-19. My understanding is that the program was a huge success with a tremendous number of participants.

This program has allowed me to keep my daughter in a consistent afterschool program, Kinder Skog. Had we not received these funds we would have needed to make some difficult decisions regarding her childcare. This would have added another stressor during an already trying time. I am certain I am not the only one who is worried about this upcoming year and how to balance household budgets for the unexpected and unpredictable.

I understand that the assembly is considering renewing the childcare assistance program. I would like to voice my support of this program and its importance. Families are missing work due to sickness or school/day care shutdowns. This means less income to cover household expenses, including childcare which can often be a large portion of the household expenses. Working families are necessary to keep Petersburg running smoothly as we make up a fair portion of the workforce. I am sure the assembly is aware of this and drafted the original childcare assistance program with this in mind.

There are so many inconsistencies during the pandemic, childcare is something many families constantly worry about. In many families, finding a great state licensed childcare provider is a struggle due to lack of availability. Worrying about losing their child(ren)'s spot due to inability to pay is a stressor that could be removed by the direction of CARES funds to the borough's childcare assistance grant and empower our working families during the pandemic.

As a member of the community, workforce, school district, and Maldonado family, I would ask the assembly to direct a portion of the remaining CARES funding to the childcare assistance program.

Thank you for your consideration,

Veronica Maldonado

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