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15 August 2020

Mayor Mark Jensen  
Assemblyman Bob Lynn  
Assemblywoman Brandi Marohl  
Assemblyman Jeff Meucci  
Assemblyman Taylor Norheim  
Assemblyman Jleigh Stanton-Gregor  
Assemblywoman Chelsea Tremblay

**Re: Childcare Funding Assistance**

Dear Mayor Jensen and Borough Assembly Members,

I am once again writing to you all to advocate for the children and families of Petersburg. As a childcare provider with Kinder Skog Nature Program I am all too aware of the desperate need for quality childcare in Petersburg. This issue is not new in our community; however, Covid-19 has greatly exacerbated this issue and has left families struggling to even afford childcare. Many families have slightly too much income to apply for relief through the state Childcare Assistance Program.

In an effort to support our community members and lift the financial burden the extra childcare hours will have on families a group of organizations have begun a collaborative effort to raise funds for those in need. The SHARE Coalition, Petersburg Mental Health Services, Rae C. Stedman Partners in Education, Serendipity Afterschool Academy, Petersburg Children's Center-Eagles Nest, Kinder Skog Nature Program and the Petersburg Community Foundation have all teamed up to advocate for the support of families needing childcare funding assistance. I respectfully ask the Petersburg Borough Assembly to consider directing a portion of CARES Act funding towards this childcare relief effort. This is a huge community effort, to lift this burden and keep the children of our community in safe learning environments during out of school times and I invite the Petersburg Borough to join the cause.

Families that need support should be able to receive it and not have to make the choice between quality care for their children or paying other bills. Our kids need us right now, they need and deserve quality out of school time care that will help meet their developmental, emotional, social, and mental health needs in engaging and safe spaces. We have the chance to invest directly into the care of the youth in our community, I urge the Petersburg Borough to join us in this mission.

Sincerely and with much gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katherine Holmlund', with a stylized, cursive script.

Katherine Holmlund