

For Immediate Release
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Early Childhood Education Advocates: The DC Council Must Restore Every Penny Cut from The Pay Equity Fund

Advocates Urge DC Council to Support the Workforce Behind the Workforce

WASHINGTON – After Mayor Muriel Bowser released her proposed FY24 budget, early childhood education advocates noticed that \$5.4 million was cut from the pay equity fund. Early childhood educators and their advocates are urging policymakers to see the workforce behind the workforce, warning that the cuts will prevent early childhood education providers from paying a living wage that would allow them to attract and retain early childhood educators. The Under 3 DC family will convene for a coalition meeting, press conference/speak-out, and legislative outreach on Wednesday, April 26, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

“Policymakers should not say ‘the children are our future’ while failing to fund education from birth through pre-k adequately,” **said LaDon Love, executive director of DC SPACeS In Action and member of the Under 3 DC executive committee.** “And education is not properly funded if early childhood education is not adequately funded. This is no surprise. Policymakers must fund the entire program, including the people teaching and nurturing our youngest and brightest minds.”

Upon realizing the cuts, organizers, and advocates, including providers and educators, testified on the importance of restoring funds for early childhood education programs during the Committee of the Whole's public hearing on education on April 5. Although Mayor Bowser's budget team had yet to release the FY23 supplemental budget, it has since been released, and advocates, thanks to the leadership of Tazra Mitchell and her team at the D.C. Fiscal Policy Institute, learned that the Pay Equity Fund was also cut by \$5 million for this current year.

“All parents deserve to go to work knowing their kids have a safe, nurturing place to go. Policymakers can ensure this is the case if they fund the workforce that supports the workforce. This means consistently allocating resources for early childhood education and care. The DC Council must fully restore every penny cut from the Pay Equity Fund.”

WHO: SPACeS in Action, Under 3 DC Campaign
WHAT: Coalition meeting, visits to Council offices, press conference
WHEN: Wednesday, April 26, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
WHERE: Wilson Building

Following the April 26 events, the Committee of the Whole will mark up the budget on April 27.

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Social Media Graphics

- All parents deserve to go to work knowing their kids have a safe, nurturing place to go. Policymakers can make this happen by funding and supporting the workforce behind the workforce.
- If you believe children are our future, fund early childhood education today, tomorrow, and forever.
- The DC Council must restore every penny cut from The Pay Equity Fund.
- QUESTION: jenniferr@spotlightpr.org How can we link this to the upcoming - Day without childcare on May 9 action? Or do we do that after the event?