



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

**Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale**

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April 8, 2025

Mayor Muriel Bowser  
Mayor  
Government of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20004  
[muriel.bowser@dc.gov](mailto:muriel.bowser@dc.gov)

Chairman Phil Mendelson  
Committee of the Whole  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 504  
Washington, DC 20004  
[pmendelson@dccouncil.gov](mailto:pmendelson@dccouncil.gov)

### **RE: Support of DC Continuing Funding for Pre-K Enhancement and Expansion Program (PKEEP)**

Dear Mayor Bowser and Chairman Mendelson,

On March 31st, 2025 ANC 2E held its regularly scheduled public meeting, which was properly noticed and attended by eight commissioners, constituting a quorum. At this meeting the Commission adopted the following resolution by a vote of (8-0-0) with regard to the above-referenced matter:

ANC 2E supports retaining the current levels of funding for the Pre-K Enhancement and Expansion Program (PKEEP).

In a region where childcare and preschool are extraordinarily expensive, universal Pre-K has set DC apart from Maryland and Virginia, drawing and keeping families in the District.

While we understand that DC's budget may be tighter this year, the \$20 Million PKEEP program is a small percentage of DC's current operating budget. As many studies have shown, including a [20-year study](#) by DC's own Georgetown University, there is a significant economic value as well: they estimate \$2.65 to every \$1.00 spent.

Most relevantly, many families in our community currently benefit from this program. In our area, demand for public Pre-K greatly exceeds supply and there are long waitlists at the public schools. The PKEEP program has helped so many to attend quality Pre-K programs in our community.

#### COMMISSIONERS:

|                              |                            |                             |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Kishan Putta, District 1     | Topher Mathews, District 2 | Paul Maysak, District 3     |
| Peter Sloniewsky, District 4 | Mimsy Lindner, District 5  | Gwendolyn Lohse, District 6 |
| Daniel Chao, District 7      | Knox Graham, District 8    |                             |

We understand that you must make difficult decisions that balance the public interest across the full range of the District's agencies and government functions. But - given its fundamental importance to families and children in ANC 2E and across the District - we strongly urge you to maintain universal access to free pre-kindergarten education by retaining funding for PKEEP in the FY2026 budget.

We also urge you to try to open more public school Pre-K seats in areas where demand is exceeding supply.

Commissioners Kishan Putta and Gwendolyn Lohse are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gwendolyn Lohse", followed by a long horizontal flourish line.

Gwendolyn Lohse  
Chair, ANC 2E