

**Quiana Lamons
All Education Agencies
Performance Oversight Hearing Testimony
Committee of the Whole
Wednesday, March 1st, 2023**

Good Day, Chairman and the member of the Committee of the Whole

I'm Quiana Lamons, and I live in Ward 7. My two special needs children go to DC Public Schools, where they are currently receiving their own individualized education plans.

I'm here to offer my testimony in support of the demand for local out-of-school programs for children with special needs that will accommodate each one of their unique needs without grouping them all together. It's required by law to ensure equal access for students with disabilities.

We want programs that offer trade training to children who already possess or could acquire the necessary abilities to master a trade. We want services for children who could be having academic difficulties. We want counseling or treatment that would give children with mental health conditions a place to learn how to manage their illnesses.

In order to safeguard the future generation of innocent children from unanticipated violence that might occur due to the crime rate, we request that transportation be provided to after-school programs and back to their homes.

We thank you Chairman for your work co-introducing the legislation to set standards and require training for OST programs to support students with disabilities. This is a great first step.

Now, will you continue that work to ensure equitable access to OST programming, especially for students with disabilities, by increasing grants for OST providers by at least \$10 million to provide 5,000 additional seats for students and \$300,000 to assess the cost of high-quality training for all government-funded OST programs to support students with disabilities to inform funding next year? Lastly, I ask that all wards offer physical activities for children with disabilities. Well, I do have a lengthy list of requests, and the ones made by us parents in all wards will be a terrific place to start. The links are in my written testimony.

Thank you for your time,



Quiana Lamons
Ward 7 PLE Board

Click [here](#) for PAVE parent priorities on OST programs
Click [here](#) for PAVE parent priorities on SBMH programs