

**Tara Brown**  
**Education Agencies**  
**FY24 Budget Oversight Hearing Testimony**  
**Wednesday, April 5, 2023**

Hello to Chairman Mendelson and the Committee of the Whole.

My name is Tara Brown and I am a lot of things. I am on the Board of an amazing charter school, LEARN DC. I am a newly appointed ANC Commissioner, representing 8D04. I am on the City Wide Board for PAVE representing Ward 8. I am the proud mother and aunt of Jayna and Isaiah.

My advocacy and my energy is centered around education. I dedicate so much of my time to this area because I know what education can do. Education is freedom. Education is empowerment. Education feeds the pipeline of our cities' doctors, lawyers, teachers, and leaders. Education is the way we make our children informed and engaged citizens. Education is the present and future of our great city. That is why, in this difficult budget season, I ask that you at least make the same investment that the Mayor did and don't chip away at the parts of the budget that address education or children.

Fully Support SBMH, UPSFF, funds allocated to Special Needs, out of school time, recreation centers, etc. I understand that there are a great number of competing priorities. I understand that there are a lot of constituents to please. What I also understand is that our children have to continue to be our number one priority and that we need to protect the investments made for them. I know you have some tough decisions, but protecting the interests of our kids should not be one of them. If we don't take anything away from our kids today, they will give us back so much more tomorrow.

Thank You

Tara Brown  
Citywide and Ward 8 PLE Board Member  
ANC 8D04