

**Dominique Moore**  
**All Budget Legislation**  
**Budget Oversight Hearing Testimony**  
**Friday, May 3rd, 2024**

**To:** DC Council Committee of the Whole, Committee of the Whole Chairman Phil Mendelson, Committee of the Whole committee members, and Committee of the Whole staff  
**From:** Dominique Moore, Citywide Board member at PAVE (Parents Amplifying Voices in Education)  
**Date:** May 3rd, 2024

Hello, Chairman Mendelson and DC Council staff. My name is Dominique Moore. I serve as a PAVE Ward 4 PLE board member.

I have been living in Washington DC since 2002. I have personally experienced the devastating impact of inadequate security measures and lack of support for our youth. Through experience, I know how important it is to have proper security measures, programs, and transportation options in place in our city.

As a parent, I face limitations in accessing quality programs and transportation options for my own neurodivergent child. I will be honest, there are no suitable modes of transportation available for him to attend regular or after-school programs. That means I am his sole means of transportation in a city with a supposedly robust transportation system, and it is disheartening that I have to juggle and jeopardize my \$58,000.00 a year job which I might mention disqualifies me as a single parent from DC public assistance programs, and barely meets our needs.

I am grateful to Mayor Bowser and her staff for allotting \$9.7 million to maintain the Safe Passage program, the \$6.5 million increase in funding for the OSSE special education transportation program, and the one-time allotment of \$7.2 million to maintain the DC School Connect program. These are all great investments in transportation options for students and I hope that they continue to be funded and expanded over the years.

Today, I have two primary asks that I and other PAVE parents believe will make a huge difference in the safety and overall welfare of our children. First, I want to advocate for the intentional implementation and improvement in the deployment and oversight of safe page programs



---

throughout our city. I have heard firsthand from the children about their early morning struggles and late arrivals, and regularly watch the school bus with developmentally challenged children arrive at school late. The lack of availability of safe transportation options is unacceptable and leads to chronic absenteeism and truancy. I urge each of you to go to a school or join me at my son's school, for arrival or dismissal one day so you can see what happens and the troubles students have commuting to school. I and many PAVE parents would be more than happy to schedule that experience with and for you.

Additionally, I would like to address the safety of students while on buses and trains, specifically WMATA buses and trains. It is concerning to see repeated killings, robberies, and more egregious crimes happening in and around metro platforms and stops where young children are often without proper supervision. There must be a stronger presence of Safe Passage Workers, WMATA PD, and MPD in these high trafficked places. The prevalence of fights and crimes makes it clear that we need a serious assessment and investment in our children's safety, prioritizing school arrival and dismissal times. With the right structure and collaboration efforts, we can provide a safer environment for our youth.

We are facing a crisis and it is unfair to expect students to navigate these challenges on their own. The paths they walk are shaped by the environment we create for them and currently, all they see is violence, disrespect, and the lack of adults trained in violence intervention. As a proud DC resident and a mother of a neurodivergent child, I am asking you Chairman Mendelson, and all members of the Council to invest in creating a safer and more supportive city for our youth and communities because we all deserve so much better.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to the solutions you develop and am available for questions.

Sincerely,

Dominique Moore, Citywide and Ward 4 PLE Board Member, PAVE (Parents Amplifying Voices in Education)