

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 27, 2026

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins,

We write to ask you to stop the imminent closure of two childcare centers serving U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) employees and their families. These centers have been open for over 30 years, serving generations of children while their parents serve America’s farmers, ranchers and foresters. Closing the childcare centers will harm USDA workers and personnel at other federal agencies who depend on these services.¹ We urge you to find a new childcare provider before the scheduled closure on July 10, 2026.

We view USDA’s childcare center closures as an escalation of the Trump Administration’s attack on the National Capital Region workforce. USDA is currently executing an unlawful and expensive “reorganization,” which is an attempt to dismantle the agency and relocate large sectors of the workforce far away from where they have built lives, careers and families. The announced closure of the two childcare centers in Washington, D.C. and Beltsville, MD will negatively affect the ability for these dedicated federal employees to access childcare options.

On April 22, childcare service provider KinderCare announced it was not renewing its contract with USDA. Since then, USDA has not communicated with families using childcare services in either the Sidney R. Yates Building in D.C. or the George Washington Carver Center in Beltsville, MD about alternative options, or if the agency will find a new childcare provider. Instead, USDA sent surveyors to classrooms while children were present to measure the rooms, presumably so that they can be repurposed.

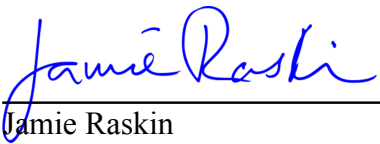
Uprooting these services with less than three months’ notice has caused chaos, as affordable and accessible childcare is hard to find. One employee shared that they are “now at the end of the waitlist for any childcare center, which can be six months to a year.” Another said, “closing the day care center will be extremely difficult for my child, who had a trusted community of caregivers there.” Families in Virginia and Maryland pay some of the country’s highest childcare costs, with

¹ Federal employees at the Department of Justice, Department of Energy, and the Federal Aviation Administration.

the average annual price of center-based infant care exceeding \$17,000 and \$20,000, respectively, in 2025.²

We therefore urge you to immediately secure a new childcare provider for the Sidney R. Yates Building and the George Washington Carver Center and provide a briefing to our offices informing us of what steps USDA will take to mitigate the adverse effects of the closures no later than June 10, 2026.

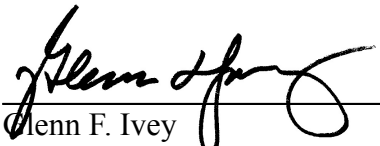
Sincerely,



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



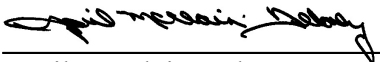
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Glenn F. Ivey
Member of Congress



Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator



April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

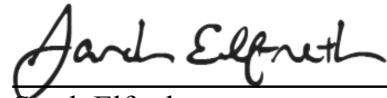


Tim Kaine
United States Senator

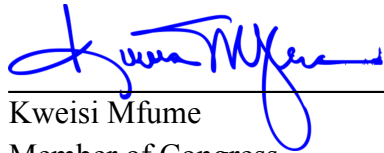
² Child Care Aware of America, *Child Care in America: 2025 Price & Supply*, Report (May 13, 2026) <https://info.childcareaware.org/price-and-supply-2025>.



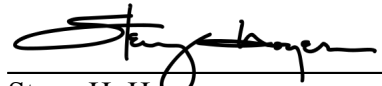
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Edward C. Forst
Administrator of the General Services Administration