



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

June 9, 2026

THE HONORABLE JAMIE RASKIN
United States House of Representatives
2242 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Raskin,

Thank you for your May 27, 2026, letter, consigned by your colleagues, regarding the closure of the childcare centers located at the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) George Washington Carver Center (GWCC) in Beltsville, MD, and the Sidney R. Yates Federal Building (Yates) in Washington, D.C.

Your categorization of the closure of the day care centers is patently false. The Department did not make the decision to close these childcare centers, nor did it pursue the closure of the centers. KinderCare, the company contracted to provide childcare, notified USDA of its intent to end childcare services at the Yates Building and GWCC at the conclusion of its current contract. At the time of KinderCare's decision, it is USDA's understanding that there were ninety-three children receiving care between the two facilities with approximately one-third having a USDA employee as a parent.

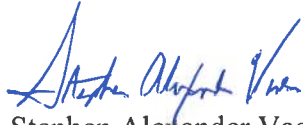
KinderCare indicated operation of these centers is no longer financially viable based on current enrollment, increased operating costs, and licensing limitations on capacity. KinderCare has also struggled with staff retention at the locations. If a national company like KinderCare cannot afford to operate the facilities, it is not surprising that USDA has not received interest from any other accredited entities to provide childcare services at the Yates or GWCC facilities.

The Department understands the importance of accessible and affordable childcare services for Federal employees and their families. As you noted in your letter, day care costs within the National Capital Region are among the highest in the country. This reaffirms USDA's decision to transition staff to more affordable communities in which childcare services are more affordable and readily available.

The Department remains committed to providing reorganization updates, as we support current and future USDA employees in developing careers outside the National Capital Region in locations across the country. Thank you again for your letter. If you have additional questions,

please have a member of your office contact USDA's Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 720-7095 or ocr@usda.gov. A similar letter has been sent to your colleagues.

Sincerely,



Stephen Alexander Vaden
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture