



April 29, 2019

Dear Mayor Bowser and Members of the City Council:

Having Kids is a national child welfare advocacy organization dedicated to reforming family planning systems. We are writing briefly to follow up on our [letter of October 25, 2018](#), in which we proposed a new vision for guaranteed minimum income for children. That vision simply involves tying the income, as a matter of right, to simultaneously promoting smaller families so that communities and families can invest more in each child. This vision is centered around every child's right to a fair start in life, and is designed to address the greatest threats facing the District and nation, including inequality and climate change.

Specifically, we want to call attention to recent reports of [significant problems with the District's child welfare system](#).

These are problems that we believe are a result of the flawed family planning system that underlies the District's, and many other communities', child welfare systems. We believe these problems would be remedied with the sort of remodeling envisioned by the [Fair Start model](#) or comparable models, as embodied in our October 25th proposal.

These problems are exacerbated by a [shortage of foster care parents in the District](#), a situation we also believe derives directly from the isolationist family planning model that Having Kids was founded to challenge.

[The facts are clear](#). A better family planning model is the best way to ensure a safe, healthy, equitable, and democratic future for all. The District can lead the nation on this issue. Thanks for considering our proposal.

Sincerely,

Erika Mathews
Executive Director
HavingKids.org