



Office of
James Brown
1st District Council Member

April 26, 2021

Andy Barr
US Congressman
2430 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Barr,

As the Councilmember for Lexington's District 1, I am delighted to submit this letter in support of Community Action Council's (the Council) proposal to build a new Prep Academy facility to provide Early Head Start services in the William Wells Brown Elementary school district. The Council has a proven track record of providing young children with the early childhood education they need to succeed upon entering Kindergarten.

As a Lexington native, I am extremely passionate about service to neighborhoods and education. This proposal to operate a new child development center in a low-income, low-performing school district will help support some of our most vulnerable children and parents in a time where COVID-19 has only increased inequity and lack of access to resources. This is especially important as the national and local conversation focuses on racial justice and the importance of an equitable society.

To this end, the Council's proposal to expand Early Head Start services in this community addresses one of the main recommendations from the Mayor's Commission for Racial Justice Education & Economic Opportunity subcommittee report, namely to "Build an integrated system of early childhood education that addresses the needs of children, adults and families." As it has done for more than 56 years through its Head Start programs, the Council will achieve this by providing children with high-quality education prior to enrolling in public school. Beyond this, the Council's new Prep Academy will provide additional resources for the William Wells Brown community, such as linking families with low income to community resources specific to their needs.

This proposal is in alignment with the Council's mission to prevent, reduce and eliminate poverty among individuals, families and communities through direct services and advocacy. By providing high-quality early childhood education, the Council works to combat the effects of poverty and increase self-sufficiency. This proposal also speaks to the needs of the William Wells Brown neighborhood and my commitment to address the needs and interests of the people of Lexington. I strongly recommend this proposal for funding.

Sincerely,

James Brown
1st District Councilmember