

This letter was sent to the DC Council by the Executive Director of Sewing Opportunity Never Ending, who shares it with the Commission for awareness.

Dear DC Council Member,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. As the Executive Director of a small but instrumental non-profit Sewing Opportunity Never Ending (SONE) and a long-time grantee of the DC Commission on Arts and Humanities (DCCAH), I am writing to express my deep concerns and disapproval of the recent position taken by the City Council on the FY24 Budget Support Act (BSA). As an active advocate of minority organizations providing services to DC's underserved community, it is essential to voice strong opposition to the City Council's stance on proposed General Operating Support (GOS) grants budget constraints.

First and foremost, let me emphasize that SONE is committed to uplifting the advancement of young artists. The BSA should reflect the interests and aspirations of the diverse population DCCAH serves. But the City Council's stance will limit GOS funding accessible for smaller organizations who need as much funding as possible for capacity building. Leaving only a greater chance of increasing the funding pool for larger organizations who already have an exorbitant share of DCCAH annual funding. This approach undermines the principles of inclusivity, fairness, and equitable distribution of resources that are vital for these small organizations' growth and development.

Moreover, the City Council's stance contradicts the equity values and goals DCCAH confidently advocates they are striving to uphold. As a respected member of the DC Council, I urge you to question the proposed strategy further with consideration of small organizations like SONE.

It is essential that the final decision on the Budget Support Act accurately reflects the needs and aspirations of the DC community as a whole and more than anything contributes to the uplifting of underserved communities.

Furthermore, I kindly request that you keep me informed about any future developments or public hearings related to the Budget Support Act. I am eager to engage in constructive conversations and provide any necessary support that may contribute to the formulation of a fair and comprehensive BSA that truly addresses the needs of our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust in your dedication to serving the best interests of our community and look forward to a productive dialogue that will lead to positive outcomes for all residents. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you require any further information or assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Raji A. Rankins
Executive Director
Sewing Opportunity Never Ending (SONE)