



## **DC KinCare Alliance Relative Caregiver Community Board**

January 12, 2022

### **STATEMENT REGARDING DC COUNCIL VOTE ON NEW DIRECTOR OF DC CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AGENCY**

The DC KinCare Alliance Relative Caregiver Community Board is a group of 20 relative caregivers raising 25 Washington, DC children. We took in these children because their parents could not take care of them. The reasons their parents could not take care of their own children are the same problems facing all DC underserved communities of color: gun violence, incarceration, substance use disorders, and mental health problems. The children we are raising are great kids but they need extra help because of the abuse and neglect they suffered before they came to live with us. We need help because we do not have much money, we were not expecting these children to come to us, and there is a lot to figure out to make sure they have everything they need.

Our leaders need to listen to our lived experiences and our ideas about what kinship families need from the government. Unfortunately, many of us have not had very good experiences with the DC Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) listening to our concerns and acting on them in the past.

Because of this and the important role CFSA has in the lives of families like ours, we are disappointed that the DC Council is not holding a vote of all Councilmembers on the new Director of CFSA. We believe the DC Council should vote on the proposed new Director of CFSA and not just let his nomination become approved through inaction. We believe this is an important part of the DC Council's oversight role.