

From: Judith Bishop [REDACTED]
Sent: May 21, 2025 10:29 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Written submission Emergency and Community Committee

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Please find attached a letter to the Emergency and Community Committee for the May 22 meeting

Yours sincerely

Judith Bishop on behalf of Hamilton Child Care Advocates

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Judith Bishop

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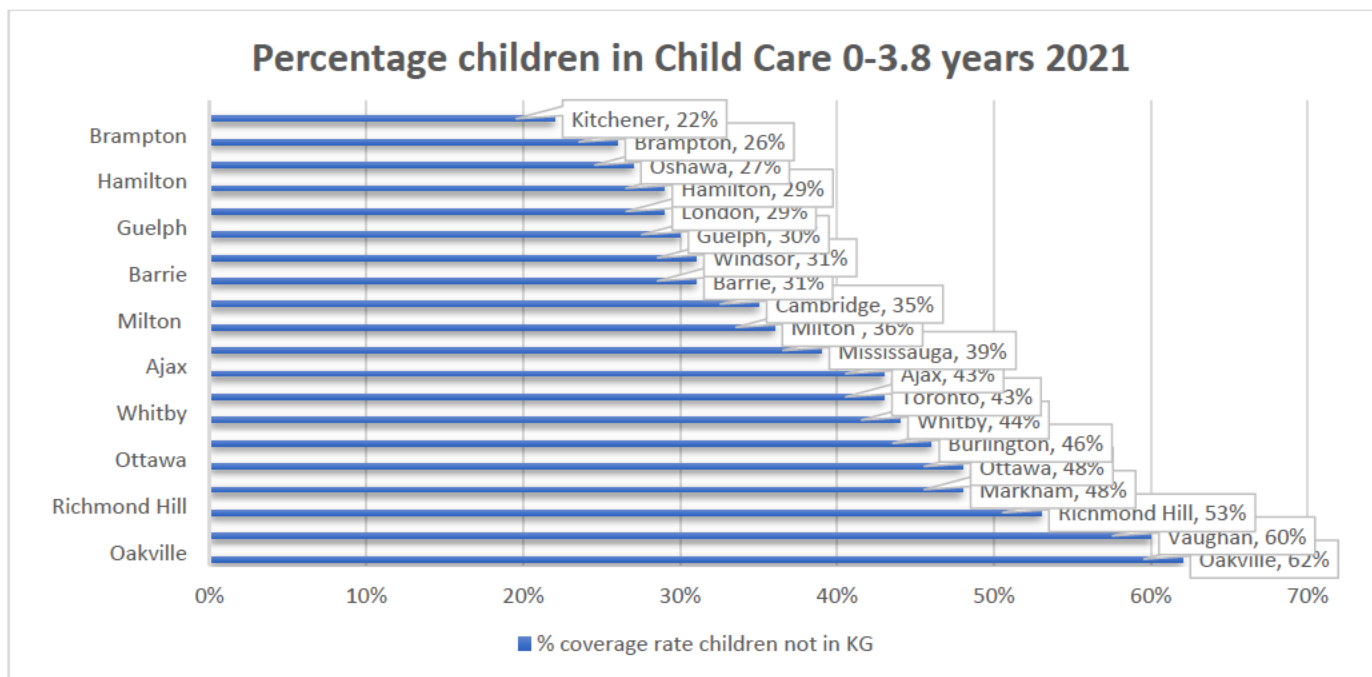
To: the Mayor and Members of the Emergency and Community Committee of Hamilton City Council, May 22 2025.

From: Hamilton Advocates for Child Care

We are writing to you to support the report to your committee from the Manager of the Early Years and the Healthy and Safe Communities Department, Children's and Community Services, on the subject Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care- 2025 and 2026 Child Care Space Allocation update and 2025 Funding Changes.

We are very disappointed that as of March 31 2025 the Ontario government has reduced for 2025 and 2026 the number of allocated new child care spaces to Hamilton by 289. Hamilton has a considerable need for child care. As the report indicates, there are substantial waiting lists for child care in Hamilton. The need is so great and the wait lists so long that anecdotally mothers are attempting to get on child care wait lists even before they have conceived. In 2026 there will be only be affordable spaces for 32% of all Hamilton children from infants to 6 years old.

The \$10 a Day program was signed by the Ontario government with the Federal government in March 2022. At the signing of the agreement, 12 Ontario cities already had child care spaces for 32% or more of their children. Some had much higher percentages: Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Oakville had child care spaces for 50% or more of their children. Hamilton's child care availability was among the lowest of Ontario cities; only Brampton, Kitchener, and Oshawa were lower. In 2026, with the new figures announced by the Province, Hamilton will have affordable spaces only 3% higher than in 2021, and will not have caught up to the spaces available in other cities, or next door in Burlington (46% in 2021). The reduction of new spaces for Hamilton means that our city will continue to have some of the lowest availability of child care spaces of cities in the Province. Even if all spaces, and not just those in the \$10 a Day program are accounted for, Hamilton in 2026 will have only spaces for 37% of its children.



Source: Chart From "Not Done Yet" David Macdoanld and Martha Friendly, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, May 2023. Note this list includes all Ontario cities with more than 6,500 children who are not yet in Kindergarten. Source: Provincial licensing data, census 2021, and authors' calculations.

Quality child care in Hamilton supports the well being of children; helps children with disabilities thrive; allows mothers to support their families and lift them out of poverty: provides opportunities for women to continue their careers: and adds to the economic vibrancy of Hamilton. More child care spaces are a necessity here.

We look to the Council to do all in its power to advocate with the province for a fairer allocation of new spaces.

Respectfully submitted:

Shirley Bainbridge, Judith Bishop, Don Jaffray, Katherine Sahai, David Savage