



May 26, 2020

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Rachael West, and I'm a MyVillage educator interested in opening my program at 13122 W. Cross Place in Littleton, Colorado. I'm 24 years old, married, and pregnant with my first child, a daughter named Waylynn.

This address is a rental home owned by my parents, who are interested in helping my husband and me by renting to us in a space where I can build a business that helps support our growing family. As I write this, Waylynn is due in 13 days. My goal is to care for my own newborn baby at home, while earning extra income to support our family by also providing early education and quality child care for a small number of other children.

What we hope will be our future home is located near an elementary school, and one of the things we love most about it is how many children are nearby laughing and playing. It would be a great neighborhood for our daughter to grow up in. However, the HOA that governs the property my parents own doesn't see it that way.

After joining MyVillage, I reached out to the property management company, which administers the neighborhood's HOA. The woman who answered the phone told me that no home-based business whatsoever would be allowed, and she refused to give me the phone number of her manager. I did some online research and found the property management company myself. I sent an email, and then another person contacted me. His first email said he'd need to run my request by the board, and asked about my license and the number of children, and whether I was insured, etc. These were all reasonable questions, in my mind. Sadly, his next email said that after speaking with the board, members had "institutional knowledge" about this request and that they were not willing to allow it because of the density of children and traffic concerns, as well as the HOA's liability.

My program would be fully insured through MyVillage, and the neighborhood is full of children, which in my view, makes it more desirable. My program would have a small number of children that are dropped off and picked up within two hour windows, so it's impossible there would be more than two cars at a time, less than a typical family gathering or dinner party.

I was born and raised in the Denver area, and I've been in child care since I finished high school. Most recently, I've worked as a nanny. I'm 24 and have felt so excited to open my own business with the support of a mom-founded company like MyVillage. I thought it would be so

fun to be able to stay home and take care of other little ones and grow deep relationships with their families.

Thankfully, my family has been less impacted by COVID-19 than many, but we currently live with my husband's parents until we can move into this rental home. We aren't paying rent now, which is the main reason we can save enough to move into our own place and so that I can open my business. I stopped nannying two weeks ago thinking I could open my program when we were slated to move in, on June 1. I hope you will pass SB 126 so that I can open my program and fulfill my dream of staying home with my daughter while still bringing in an income for my family.

Sincerely,

Rachael West