



## Indiana University - Bloomington Graduate & Professional Student Government

RESOLUTION | Oct. 6, 2017

*“Advocating for an inclusive and empowered graduate and professional student community”*

### **Resolution in Support of Affordable, Accredited, Cooperative Childcare at IU**

Whereas, IU’s unsubsidized cooperative daycares, Knee High and Sunflower, have a proven, 50-year-long track record of providing high-quality, parent-driven childcare; and

Whereas IU students have historically been the driving force for the operations of the cooperatives, and the primary beneficiaries of its benefits; and

Whereas care at the cooperatives costs <\$3,000 per year - a sum which is, according to the US Department of Health and Human Services, [affordable for families earning \\$30,000/year](#); and

Whereas, despite direct external subsidies from IU amounting to nearly \$7,000 per year per child, care for infants and toddlers costs families between \$12,500 - \$13,500 / year at the other IU-supported child care centers (Campus View and Campus Children’s Center (CCC)) - a sum well out of reach for many members of the IU community, including students; and

Whereas, there are ~200 infants, toddlers and children waitlisted to attend IU’s Campus View and CCC but the cooperative daycares have no wait lists and have served ~10-12 families at a time, roughly the same size as an infant, toddler, or two-year-old classroom at Campus View or CCC; and

Whereas, the benefits of a cooperative childcare approach extend well-beyond affordability and quality, and include benefits for work-life balance and community-building, which are especially important for graduate students and international scholars; and

Whereas the parent volunteers and work-study assistants who staff the cooperatives are state-licensed caregivers, having passed an FBI background check, multiple health assessments, and obtained multiple certifications for ensuring quality childcare; and

Whereas, despite the cooperatives’ decades-long track record of success, the university administration has recently determined they must close because they are not

accredited, which the [administration has stated is a key factor for risk mitigation and quality assurance](#); and

Whereas, the decision to close the cooperatives was made without consultation of key stakeholders, including cooperative families, GPSG, and the Campus Childcare Coalition, with the false assumptions that accreditation is impossible for the cooperatives and undesired by parents; and

Whereas, if the cooperative daycares close, IU's \$500,000 capital investment and significant ongoing O&M costs to expand child care at CCC will result in no net gain in positions for infants and toddlers - the age range for which child care is not only the most expensive but also the most challenging to find; and

Whereas, the cooperative families have developed [a thorough proposal outlining a path to accreditation](#) that would sustain the cooperative's benefits, require no increase in fees, and be enacted with financial support from the University that is significantly less than that already provided to other IU-supported centers,

Therefore be it resolved by the Graduate and Professional Student Government Assembly that:

- a) GPSG advocates for the University to provide institutional support for the continued operation of at least one cooperative as an accredited, campus-based facility following the approach outlined in the linked proposal, titled "[Cooperative production of child care services at Indiana University -- a path forward for sustainable provisioning of affordable, accredited care](#)"; and
- b) GPSG will support the proposal's goal of prioritizing 2/3 of enrollment capacity at the cooperatives for students and postdocs by advertising the many benefits of the cooperatives to its membership through, for example, distribution of information over email lists and at GPSG events, permitting representatives from the cooperatives to speak annually at a GPSG assembly meeting, and other efforts guided by GPSG's Parent-Student Ambassador.
- c) If it is not possible to sustain at least one cooperative according to the parameters outlined in the linked proposal, GPSG advocates for the formation of a committee to explore alternative pathways for the continued operation of at least one cooperative. This committee should be engaged in a transparent decision-making process involving all key stakeholders, including current Knee High and Sunflower Families, GPSG representatives, and the Bloomington Child Care Coalition.

Respectfully submitted to and passed by the Graduate and Professional Student Government Assembly on this 13th day of October 2017.

Adam Reneker \_\_\_\_\_

GPSG President

October 13, 2017

Date