



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

December 18, 2015

The Honorable Kelly A. Ayotte
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Ayotte:

Thank you for your letter of November 17, 2015, to the Secretary of Defense concerning wait times and wait lists for Services Members and Department of Defense (DoD) civilian employees that seek access to Child Development Centers (CDC). Your letter raises specific concerns about increases in these areas at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY) CDC. I am responding on behalf of the Secretary.

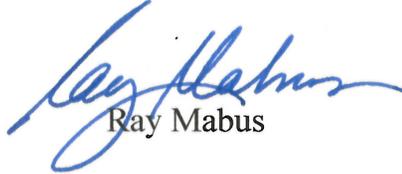
The Navy is committed to providing Service Member and civilian employee families access to the highest quality childcare, and has demonstrated its commitment to meet the DoD goal for no more than three months on the CDC waiting list. Where higher demand for access impacts a CDC's ability to meet the DoD waiting list performance goal, the Navy is taking steps to address this problem. Specifically at PNSY, the Navy plans to use modular classrooms to increase capacity, which will alleviate wait times and reduce the number of families on the wait list. The modular classrooms will be installed adjacent to the existing CDC and provide an affordable interim solution. We look forward to reporting a permanent resolution to you and what legislative assistance may be needed through the Secretary of Defense response to the National Defense Authorization Act (114-49) report on CDC waiting lists.

Also, in an effort to address the wait times and provide information promptly to our families, DoD created MilitaryChildCare.com (MCC). Akin to a global hotel reservation system, MCC is a single online gateway that provides access to comprehensive information on military-operated and military-subsidized childcare options world-wide, enabling families to search for and request care, manage their requests, and track placement and wait times. MCC was launched in January 2015 with DoD-wide implementation to be completed by December 2016.

I am confident that the Navy's interim use of modular classrooms is the best option while we develop alternative means to address the concerns raised in your letter. Finally, your sincere concern for the provision of safe, affordable, and convenient childcare to Service Members and civilian employees is appreciated.

Again, thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on this issue and bringing the PNSY CDC situation to my attention. If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Ray Mabus