

Greetings! My name is Yoselind Saucedo, I'm a senior at Gaithersburg High School, and I've actively been a part of SNEAKERS for 4 years, from the start of high school to the end. Although, I've been a part of the Crittenton organization for more than 5 years. I've been in the organization since the start of middle school going from programs like Goal Setting Girls to now, SNEAKERS. These programs are what make the Crittenton Services of Greater Washington organization outstanding and crucial to young girls/women. I could talk all day about the organization but I want to talk about the SNEAKERS program specifically. SNEAKERS means so many things to me.

A therapy group, a place to learn, be myself, to be social, and feel like you're not the only person in the world who has it hard. If I would describe SNEAKERS in one word it would be direction. Direction in knowing what I want to do in my life after highschool. Direction on how to have healthy relationships with loved ones and friends. Direction in having a healthy sex life. Direction to know that just because I am not perfect, doesn't make me less worthy of a person. With SNEAKERS, I've learned a lot about life and how to overcome obstacles. SNEAKERS gave me that direction to feel secure and set in life. I was benefited with advice, support from my fellow sisters, and love from my leader. I'm who I am today because of SNEAKERS.

Starting high school isn't easy, nor finding the right people that you can feel trust to guide you in the right pathway. As a freshman you aren't sure what you're doing in life. What do I do in high school? How do I apply to college? How can I be more social with people? So many thoughts go into your head that you aren't sure where to start. SNEAKERS gave me that first baby step into not feeling alone in this path. Now I'm a senior, about to graduate and was accepted 11/13 of college I applied to. I have traveled around the world as a dancer pursuing my dream while also balancing school, my loved ones, and my faith with the Lord. I have a healthy relationship with my family. A group of loving sisters who supported me when my dad passed away.

SNEAKERS has supported me every year of highschool, with my ups and down. There was never a dull moment where what I learned was useless. I use everything I learned today. I got into college because of SNEAKERS, because the group believed in me. I have a good relationship because the advice and guidance they gave me, communication is key. I have traveled because every one of them believed that I had the potential to become an excellent dancer. SNEAKERS led me to success. Without it, where would I be today? Because of my experience, I want nothing but for girls to experience what I experienced. A program of love and support.

With that, Council, please continue to fund/support the program because if your daughter or a young woman in your life you love was going through what I went through, you would want the best for them. Cutting funding for SNEAKERS group would not only deprive us of valuable opportunities for growth and empowerment, but it would also send a message that their voices and futures are not worth investing in. Thank you for your time!