

**Fra:** Borgmesteren for BUF

**Sendt:** 29. oktober 2019 13:25

**Til:** [REDACTED]

**Emne:** SV: Bevar fritidshjemmene i København - Save the Vor Frue!!!

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your letter of 30 September, where you express your concern regarding the reorganisation of after-school care centres (fritidshjemmene) in the Municipality of Copenhagen which will allow for higher parental payments. I apologise for the late reply to your letter.

Let me start by emphasising that we have worked diligently for a change in the law that would uniform the rules on parental payment for the Primary School Act and the Day Care Act, and thus keep after-school care centres under the Day Care Act. Unfortunately, we have not succeeded and the latest announcement from the government is that they have no plans to change the legislation in this area.

At the same time, we must recognise that we as a municipality are in an economic situation, where we cannot afford to have as low a parental payment as we have today. In Copenhagen, as a parent, you pay substantially less for a place in after-school care centres than you do in most other municipalities in the country (DKK 1,005 per month compared to a national average of about 1500-1600 DKK). I think, therefore, most parents understand that we would rather increase parental payments, than for example lower the standards at the after-school care centres or save elsewhere on our offers.

The only way we can increase parental pay - when we cannot change the legislation in this area - is by organising our after-school care centres under the Public Schools Act.

But it is very important for me to emphasise that we do this only in order to get parental payments on par with the rest of the country, thus avoiding having to make savings elsewhere. The level of ambition for pedagogy in Copenhagen is unchanged.

In Copenhagen we have a long tradition of ensuring good terms for pedagogy, both regarding the physical, financial and managerial frameworks. As the responsible Mayor, I will work to maintain that tradition.

I am aware of the specific difficulties with the integrated institutions, such as Vor Frue, who cannot change from after-school care center to KKFO in the exact same manner as the other institutions. However, I can inform you that the Children and Youth Administration of the municipality is in dialogue with the integrated institutions and working to prevent closures and to keep the pedagogical content unchanged.

It is important for me to state that there are no plans to move around or close our after-school care institutions, just as we do not cut budgets or the number of employees. The change should be seen as an administrative change from one legislation to another, however, under the overall management of the school.

I would like to thank you for your commitment to our after-school care centres. I share your desire to keep the many good after-school care offers we have in Copenhagen today.

I hope my answer has been reassuring with regards to the changes to come.

Kind regards

Jesper Christensen  
Børne- og ungdomsborgmester

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Fra: / [REDACTED]

Sendt: 30. september 2019 09:05

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Emne: Bevar fritidshjemmene i København - Save the Vor Frue!!!

Dear Sirs/Madams,

I am writing you because I am **very** against the current government plans to close all fritidshjemmene in Copenhagen and reopen most of them as KKFOs. I think this plan may save some money, money that could also be found elsewhere, but will lose not only political support, but also be detrimental to our children's peace and education. Already the previous governments have hit our upper education system with yearly cuts to the universities that have created a feeling of despondency in our students, as well as in the people who are meant to educate them. Is it now the turn to undermine small children's future and education, to take away the peace so hardly found while the parents work to support the increasingly expensive life in Copenhagen?

I don't need to tell you how important it is that children should be supervised by qualified personnel like the pedagogues currently working in the fritidshjem my oldest child goes to, the **Vor Frue integrated institution** (børnehave and fritidshjem) located in the Sankt Petri church courtyard. The staff's dedication to their lifelong occupation is admirable and the institution is a very special and time honoured place in the heart of the city that can never be replaced by sending our children to a bigger and more heartless structure, where they will become a number in a sea of children. They would never obtain the same level of care and nurturing they are receiving now. Can you put a price on the the happiness of these 70 Children? Vor Frue is a special place that takes in schoolchildren from the private Sankt Petri school, but also caters to the little ones who will one day move automatically and without stress to the fritidshjem. My youngest daughter also goes there, to the børnehave, and looks forward to being one day a child of the fritidshjem. It's her second home and now you want to close it down to save a few kroner. I think this is unacceptable and a special dispensation should be made for places that are exceptional and don't fall within the regular framework of your plan to smoothly transform Fritidshjemmene into KKFOs. If you close the Fritidshjemmene to turn them into KKFOs it will mean the end of Vor Frue as well as the few other exceptional institutions that are in a similar situation. It will not be possible to make Vor Frue a KKFO, it caters to private schools while being on Kommune premises. If you close the Frit where will our children go? And the little ones? The Vor Frue cannot sustain its existence with only the børnehave. This is all wrong and you need to listen to our plea. Lives are already difficult and all we ask is for peace for our children. DO NOT displace them and take away their safe place, please. Make a special case for the institutions that deserve to continue such a long legacy of successful nurturing and education. Please help this country maintain what makes it special and not just turn everything into profit. This is not America.

I hope my voice will be heard and you will help us in our plea.

Sincerely,

A thick black horizontal bar redacting the signature of the sender.