

Name _____

Date _____

Nursery Closing

Virginia O. Malcolm 12 Corley Way

Savannah, GA 31401

July 10, 2011

Jay Palmer, Director Williams Athletic Center

The Medical University of Savannah 120 Stanley Street

Savannah, GA 31403



Dear Mr. Palmer,

I am writing to express my disappointment that the Athletic Center has chosen to terminate its on-site nursery. The nursery provides an indispensable service for mothers who wish to exercise and be physically fit. It also affirms the Center's commitment to the health of the community. By closing the nursery, the Athletic Center is endangering the wonderful, family-oriented atmosphere that its members so appreciate. I hope you will reconsider this discouraging decision.

For mothers like me, a gym nursery is absolutely essential. Many of us cannot afford to hire babysitters just so we can go to the gym. Hiring a decent babysitter for just a couple of hours each weekday easily could cost \$150 or more per week. By running a nursery, the Athletic Center enables mothers of all income levels to work out without much inconvenience or expense. I have really benefited from this service and would hate to see it go.

I also believe that providing a nursery has helped the Athletic Center to fulfill its mission of "building a healthier Savannah." By making it easier for mothers to exercise, the gym has reached out to a demographic that often struggles to stay fit. I worry that by closing the nursery, the Center will not be as effective at putting its own principles into action. I deeply respect the Center for its contributions to the health of our whole community, and I would love to see those contributions continue.

I know that many other gym members also believe that the Center's commitment to "a healthier Savannah" is what sets it apart from other local gyms. I enjoy working out in such an inclusive, family-friendly atmosphere, and I consider many of my fellow gym members to be close friends. I have heard that if the nursery closes, many mothers will leave the Center in favor of a gym that can offer childcare. Their departure will negatively affect all members by changing the wonderful atmosphere that we currently enjoy.

I would very much appreciate it if you would reconsider closing the nursery. It is an important part of our gym's welcoming identity, and it means a great deal to members, mothers or not. I would be very disheartened to see it go.

Sincerely,

Virginia O. Malcolm