

June 11, 2020

Dear Montgomery County Councilmembers Navarro, Friedson and Riemer:

I would like to express my support and gratitude for the special appropriation of the \$10 million Early Care and Education Recovery Fund that you have initiated to provide reopening expenses, loss of revenue etc. for licensed childcare center programs, registered family childcare homes and letter of compliance programs.

The \$10 million Early Care and Education Recovery Fund that you have initiated confirms your commitment to childcare and recognition of the critical role that programs play in the lives of children and families throughout Montgomery County.

This work clearly supports working parents and our need for access to safe, high-quality childcare for our children in order to return to work.

The Recovery Fund will be critical to Early Care and Education Programs in the County, as a result of the economic devastation that the COVID-19 crisis caused with mandated closures, reduced capacity, reduced tuition revenue, additional health and safety procedures, as well as new expenses to include PPE and cleaning protocols.

Our community's long-term well-being depends on a childcare infrastructure that works for every family. An abundance of quality, affordable, childcare is critical to both our economic recovery from the pandemic and our social welfare. However, a sizable portion of the local labor force will not be able to return to work if our childcare supply has disappeared as a result of this crippling economic crisis.

As parents, my husband and I rely on quality childcare, so we can work to support and provide for our family. **We write to respectfully request that the full Council vote to approve this funding.**

The COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated many of the problems already facing the childcare industry. Families have long struggled to access affordable high-quality options, and providers have faced slim margins and precarious financial situations. However, the pandemic has also highlighted the critical role childcare plays in ensuring the success of our economy.

In order to help Montgomery County families, stimulate future consumer spending, support small businesses, sustain industries, and buttress the herculean efforts of medical professionals, lawmakers must recognize the through line in all of this is childcare.

If we do not invest in childcare now, the immediate economic recovery will be slowed as parents are unable to return to work, and the long-term economic impact on businesses and our economy will be similarly severe.

Thank you for recognizing the importance of childcare for working parents and we are grateful for your support in offering this additional funding for our local childcare providers.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Todling  
Montgomery County resident and working mom