

Claire Fenton

County Council Testimony

June 23, 2020

Hello, my name is Claire Fenton. I am a Montgomery County Public School teacher. I have been teaching at Sligo Middle School in Silver Spring for six years. I started out as a Teach for America corps member 12 years ago, and fell in love with the profession. I'm here to implore you to appropriate additional CARES Act funds to our schools, and more simply, our children.

During these difficult times, our children need more, not less. Remember, it is our schools that have fed our county's children during the past three months. It is our schools that have called to check in on our children and families. It is our schools that have connected them with mental health resources. It is our schools that have provided them with basic utilities like computers and the internet. In many cases, it is PTSA's that have provided food and fundraised for families who are out of work, sick, or have lost a family member to Covid 19. Our schools and school communities have provided for our children and their families. And for that, I am proud.

But we can't do it without adequate funding. Let me be clear: I am asking for this additional money *for our students and their families*. I do not need a pay raise or a cost of living adjustment. Although those things would be nice, I recognize that we are in the midst of a crisis.

Our county's students need all the resources they can get to ensure their basic needs are met and that they are learning. This means the cost of funding school this coming year is simply going to be more than last year. Let's recognize how much school's do to support children and families, and fund them accordingly. As a counsel, you have money to spend, and a choice of how to spend it. Please spend it wisely. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Claire Fenton

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