

**Testimony to the Montgomery County Council  
Bob Buchanan, Andy Burness, Dusty Rood, Cliff White**

**September 15, 2020**

***Support***

**Special Appropriation to the County Government's Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget, Early Care and Education (ECE) Non-Departmental Account, Montgomery Moving Forward - ECE Coordinating Entity Plan, \$75,000 (Source of Funds: General Fund Reserves) and Amendment to FY21 Operating Budget Resolution 19-472 Section G, FY21 Designation of Entities for NonCompetitive Contract Award Status: Nonprofit Montgomery**

We are Montgomery Moving Forward (MMF) Leadership Group members and private-sector supporters of MMF's work in general, and this proposal in particular. We want to thank each of you for your ongoing demonstrated support of Early Care and Education in Montgomery County and recognition of the economic imperative of a coordinated birth- to-five ECE system. Collectively, the four of us have joined, along with the Richard E and Nancy P Marriott Foundation, to pledge \$25,000 as a match to the proposed Special Appropriation of \$75,000 to support the ECE Coordinating Entity Plan.

***We ask you to vote in support of this Special Appropriation to ensure that there is an independent public-private coordinating entity to monitor and coordinate an ECE system on behalf of the entire community. We do so for the following reasons:***

- An independent public-private ECE coordinating entity will advance a true ECE system that supports the workforce of today, advances equitable learning outcomes for all students, and thereby build the talent we'll need tomorrow.
- Supplemental appropriation by the County Council for ECE recovery is an important step in the recovery of the ECE industry/child care sector. This will be vital for our economic recovery here in Montgomery County.
- A public-private entity is necessary to seek and receive private funds to complement public ECE dollars -- a function we believe necessary for a truly coordinated, effective, and efficient system.
- A public-private entity will be nimble, flexible, and independent which allows for greater innovation both during the pandemic recovery period and in the long-term.

We have invested in this work because we believe that MMF is uniquely positioned to ensure robust community engagement of both the public and private sectors. Since its outset, MMF's collective impact model prioritizes collaboration and partnership between the public and private sectors and has earned our confidence in their ability to do that.

Please partner with us to support this effort. Thank you.

**Bob Buchanan**, Partner, [Buchanan Partners](#)  
**Andy Burness**, President, [Burness](#)  
**Dusty Rood**, President, [Rodgers Consulting, Inc.](#)

**Cliff White**, Founding Partner, National Electronics Warranty Corp., and Chair, [Neighbors in Need Montgomery](#)