

EXECUTIVE ORDER 122-20, COVID-19 LOCAL ORDER – AMENDING AND RESTATING ORDER
DATED SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

Dear Council Members,

I am a professional working in Montgomery County, and I am writing to oppose the approval of Executive Order 122-20, COVID-19 Local Order – Amending and Restating Order dated September 29, 2020. Specifically, I am against the limiting of childcare center capacities to 50 percent.

Limiting the capacity of childcare centers will not improve our children's safety nor will it promote their well-being. To the contrary, both their emotional and mental well-being will be considerably hindered. My children enjoy going to their "school" each day and interacting with their friends, but they also *depend* on these interactions for their social development. The current protocol has kept the children, their peers, and their providers safe while promoting each's autonomy. By limiting capacity, you are simultaneously limiting the joy and stability that the kids, parents, and teachers experience from these services. These are only a few of the things that are very important to my family and I.

Moreover, my family's childcare center is a non-profit operation. Put simply, the capacity cap would drastically impact the center financially, causing it to suffer damage from which it may never recover. Teachers that have worked there for years, that so many families have grown to love, may become unemployed and forced to start somewhere new—the teachers and parents need this as much as the children. Childcare providers don't have the luxury of working-from-home—but they've happily returned to work so that I can also.

Lastly, I fear that my career may be cut short without the option of childcare. It is incredibly hard to be both a working professional and a stay-at-home Mom. Not only does childcare allow me to perform at an exceptional level, but it endorses much-needed mental health wellness for all involved parties. Year 2020 has taken a toll on everyone—we are making progress, and it would be terrible to now take an unnecessary step back. Thus, I respectfully urge the Council to vote against Executive Order 122-20, COVID-19 Local Order – Amending and Restating Order dated September 29, 2020.

Thank you for your time and consideration.