



**Montgomery
CHILD CARE
ASSOCIATION**

Providing high quality care and play-based education since 1968



November 4, 2020

Testimony from Montgomery Child Care Association, Inc. (MCCA) regarding:

Executive Order: 122-20 COVID-19 – Local Order Amending and Restating Order dated September 29, 2020 6. Businesses, Organizations, Establishments and Facilities That May Be Open. b. Childcare.

MCCA disagrees with the proposed Executive Order 122-20 that seeks to maintain child care operating ratios at Phase Two capacity limits as established by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) in its June 10, 2020 Child Care Operating Procedures. Child care operators in Montgomery County should be able to return to pre-COVID child ratios as promulgated by MSDE on October 1, 2020 for statewide implementation.

Montgomery County has not provided data to establish that there is COVID-19 spread in children and child care centers that warrants more restrictive practices than the regulatory framework established by MSDE. Instead, a recent Yale study (<https://news.yale.edu/2020/10/16/child-care-not-associated-spread-covid-19-yale-study-finds>) highlights that child care settings are not a significant source of spread of COVID-19.

Continuing to restrict child care providers to lower ratios deprives working parents access to licensed child care and limits safe, high quality learning experiences for their children. It is also causing child care providers to incur significant operating losses due to limited tuition revenue and higher expenses for PPE and cleaning expenses. This model is not sustainable and will result in many providers needing to permanently close their child care operations. As an important support to economic recovery, Montgomery County government should be identifying ways to support its child care sector – not further encumber its viability.

We request that the County Council amend Executive Order 122-20 to immediately allow for Montgomery County child care providers to follow MSDE guidance for full capacity. If the County has data for young children that supports Phase Two restrictions, this information should be immediately and regularly reported to ensure transparency for child care capacity decisions.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Martineau Green
Executive Director