

RE: Public hearing on Executive Order 122-20, COVID-19 Local Order, on Thursday, Nov. 5

Dear Montgomery County Council:

I am writing to ask that you vote against the provision of the above Executive Order that limits childcare providers to 50 percent capacity. There are numerous reasons that the Provision is not logical or sensible. This Provision would be a severe detriment to the hard-working community members with young children, to our employers who are doing their best with flexibility while trying to maintain adequate operational levels, and to our children who need appropriate environments for care and learning. Considering the current laws and provisions allow for participation in much higher risk activities, like indoor dining and alcohol consumption and gathering of up to 50 people, to name a few, it would appear to be "common sense" that limiting childcare ranks way below numerous other mitigating efforts that could be taken to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus. For families that are making vigilant efforts to be stewards of best practices in consideration for the health of our families and neighbors, allowing the numerous other high-risk activities while limiting essential services, like childcare, is irrational. Likewise, our families should not be penalized by attempted political recourse while the current applicable laws/rules allow for individuals to evade the laws/rules without punishment. In other words, childcare facilities risk losing their licensure and business by not following the rules and thus are likely to follow them, while individuals in the community are violating the provisions without real fear of punishment while contributing to the spread of the virus.

In summary, from a hardworking family that is just trying to provide and take care of its children, please allow science, logic, and common sense to drive decision making and please vote against the provision of the above Executive Order that limits childcare providers to 50 percent capacity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christian Schafer', with a stylized, looped flourish at the end.

Christian Schafer