

RE: Board of Health Regulation to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the County

Thank you for taking the time to read my statement. I am a small business owner, a mom of two hockey goalies, and a figure skater. I began my business, filming sporting events (mainly in rinks) for families and have been using my skills to better our hockey organization's website. Unfortunately with the restrictions in place by Montgomery County I have to find work outside of the state. As a mom, it has been stressful having to travel outside the state as well to find games for my children to play. Even more frustrating is my youngest's figure skating academy moved to Virginia because of Montgomery County's strict policies. It has had a negative effect on my family beginning with the cost of travel and including our safety having to travel to rinks outside the state. Rockville Ice Arena is our home rink and has some of the toughest restrictions in place. I have seen enough rinks now that I am proud of our covid policies and feel safe there. However the rink is losing funding having to adhere to a 10 person rule while other rinks in the state of Maryland are allowing games (35+ occupancy). The rink can not operate with a proposed 25 person total, it pretty much stays the same. Our talented players will move to other clubs, leaving Montgomery Youth Hockey Association to lose funds. I will not be able to maintain my business if I can't get into the rinks because of the 25 person rule. I refuse to take away a spot from a child who is craving social interaction, exercise, and a chance to play the sport they love. Please re-consider the per person rule for rinks.

Thank you,  
Amy Blackburn