

November 24, 2021

Montgomery County Council
Stella Werner Council Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Montgomery County Council,

I am writing to express Kaiser Permanente's support for Bill 42-21 on the Early Care and Education (ECE) Coordinating Entity.

At Kaiser Permanente, we have a deep and abiding commitment to our local community's health and wellbeing. We seek to be a leader in total health not just by providing exceptional high quality, affordable care to our members, but by also working in partnership with the local community to address health and social disparities in the areas of food insecurity, housing, access to care, economic opportunity, and education. That is why we are in support of Bill 42-21 which will establish an Early Care and Education coordinating entity for Montgomery County's most vulnerable families.

At Kaiser Permanente, we believe that a coordinating Early Care and Education Coordinating Entity will make a difference in the lives of Montgomery County children and families by making high quality, affordable, and equitable childcare more accessible to all.

As a business leader in the Washington Metropolitan region, Kaiser Permanente understands the importance of a strong, sustainable, and equitable ECE sector to supporting and helping develop a strong foundation for the local workforce. The COVID-19 crisis has deeply impacted the ECE sector, and the effects are still being felt as ECE providers struggle to reopen and/or stay open pre and post pandemic. The ECE coordinating entity that would be created by this legislation would help address these multi-pronged issues and help close the ongoing gap in early childhood education. Thank you for your support of Bill 42-21.

Sincerely,

Tonga Turner

Tonga Y. Turner
Kaiser Permanente
Interim Director, Community Health
Senior Director, Community Relations & Stakeholder Engagement