

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY

November 27, 2021

Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
4th Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Re: Bill 41-21
ECE Coordinating Entity

Dear Councilmembers:

Please accept this letter in support of Bill 42-21 and, moreover, the accelerated creation of a robust system and culture of early child care and education in Montgomery County by way of a public/private coordinating entity. I am writing to you as the President & CEO of Rodgers Consulting and on behalf of all of our employees. Further, as a member of the Montgomery Moving Forward Leadership Group, and chair of the Business Advisory Group, like so many others, I have invested heavily in the advancement of this important initiative. Our business, like so many others tied to the well-being of Montgomery County, knows that an outstanding education system is critical for the County's well-being.

It is rewarding to see the entire Council signed on as sponsors of this Bill and it will be even more rewarding when Montgomery County has a national reputation as a community with outstanding resources for young families. This Bill is an important step in that direction and I know we can get there.

The framework for this Bill is rooted in significant research of best practices and models from other parts of the Country. It is based on the robust feedback and insights of local experts, providers, parents, employers, and employees. The inclusive, independent and accountable public-private entity will ensure the creation of a robust system of early care and education that is accessible, affordable and of the highest-quality.

This is important for many reasons. First, we know that the first 5 years of a child's life is a critical time in their development and from a public policy perspective, resources invested at that stage are returned by orders of magnitude later on. Second, the current state of inadequate child care and education is holding back our economy and the economic well-being of families. Too many parents are unable to participate in the economy due to not having child care / education options. Finally, this can be a critical differentiator that helps to attract and retain professionals in Montgomery County – particularly for our burgeoning life sciences industry, where many research and development professionals need to do their work in a lab, and can't work from home.

In closing, thank you for your collective leadership in advancing this legislation and ensuring the establishment of the entity. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at droad@rodgers.com.

Best wishes for a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Sincerely,
Rodgers Consulting, Inc.

Dusty Rood

Dusty Rood
President & Chief Executive Officer