



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of Bill 11-22

Personnel – Buildings – Lactation Rooms in County Buildings
Required Before the Montgomery County Council
July 13, 2022

CASA is pleased to provide support for Bill 11-22, Personnel - Buildings - Lactation Rooms in County Buildings - Required. CASA is the largest membership-based immigrant services and advocacy organization in the mid-Atlantic region, with a membership of over 120,000 Black and brown immigrant and working families.

CASA strongly supports providing sanitary, private lactation rooms in County buildings. Having a private space is necessary to promote the health of the mother and baby through continued nursing. Breastfeeding programs in the workplace also contribute to lower health care cost, lower absenteeism, keeping valuable employees and increasing retention of employees¹.

We support the requirement of this legislation to provide a separate area for women to express breastmilk and refrigeration facilities to store milk during the workday. Additionally, we respectfully want to suggest that the amount of time required to express breast milk is added to this bill. Expressing breastmilk may require 15-30 minutes per session. During a typical 8 hour work day, breast milk may need to be expressed at least twice. Needless to say, over the course of a day, a woman could easily use up the time she is allotted for her lunch in order to provide milk for her baby. Such a situation would not promote breastfeeding but would require a woman to either carry an additional burden or neglect her own dietary needs. **Therefore, we urge the Council to amend this bill to provide time accommodations which enable a woman to truly benefit from the important objectives this bill seeks to advance.**

CASA urges a favorable report on bill 11-22 from the Montgomery County Council.

¹ https://web.uri.edu/worklife/files/BF_entire_toolkit_FINAL.pdf