

TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE MARC ELRICH

**Bill 11-22, Personnel – Buildings – Lactation Rooms in
County Buildings - Required**

Before the Montgomery County Council

July 12, 2022

My name is Luisa Cardona, Mid-County Regional Services Center director, and I am here to present testimony on behalf of County Executive Marc Elrich on Bill 11-22, Personnel – Buildings – Lactation Rooms in County Buildings – Required.

The County Executive strongly supports providing sanitary, private lactation rooms in County buildings and has directed that all new County buildings be designed and constructed with a dedicated lactation room moving forward.

The County Executive also supports retrofitting existing County buildings with lactation rooms. There is a cost for this work that will require additional appropriation, especially to design and install the plumbing required by the Bill.

Department of General Services and Office of Management and Budget estimates the cost of placing a lactation room in each County building immediately will be in the range of \$9 million. As a result, we ask that, for the existing buildings only, the Bill be amended to allow the requirement of a sink with running water within the lactation room to be waived if running water is accessible nearby.

We also ask that the Bill be amended to allow adequate time for the County's Department of General Services to assess each of the County's 430 buildings to properly assess the total costs and to expedite the County's ability to move quickly to provide a lactation room in each County building where that can easily be done. The Bill allows 6 months for implementation, but we believe that that timeframe should only begin to run after an assessment of all County buildings has been completed. Many office spaces may need to be retrofitted to meet the requirements of the Bill and will require scheduling and use of outside vendors.

Finally, to be consistent with State and federal law, the Bill should be amended to state that an employee cannot be compensated for any time spent expressing milk at work.

Thank you, and we look forward to working with the Council on this legislation.