

My comment concerns the Supplemental Appropriation to the FY23 Operating Budget, DHHS - \$1,000,000 for Assistance to Access Abortion, Reproductive Health, and Related Services: I listened to the Council's discussion of item 16 on July 12 about additional County funds for access to abortion and reproductive care. As a Montgomery County resident, I have become deeply concerned about the extreme, single-focused efforts of our State and now County legislators related to abortion care. There is nothing mentioned about instead using or at least earmarking some of these funds to assist pregnancy resource centers in Montgomery County. In 2021, one such center in Montgomery County paid \$43,000 to local hospitals for prenatal care for specific mothers. This was in addition to providing mothers with infant formula, cribs, new strollers, diapers and wipes, grocery gift cards, maternity clothes, among other items. These centers rely greatly on donations in order to operate. Please consider instead supporting these pregnancy crisis/resources centers who have been doing fine work for decades. Finally, the Council seems more concerned about abortion access for women coming from other states than for women in this County who want to carry their pregnancy despite the challenges. In the Council's laser focus on "women's reproductive rights", there is no acknowledgement of the unborn child who is innocent of the circumstances under which they were conceived and who have no voice, no rights, except the right to life under this Country's Constitution. Thank you.