

5/17/23

My name is Rosa Greenberg, and I am a resident of Wheaton (District 6). I am writing to urge the County Council to please fully fund Supplemental Appropriation #23-91 to the FY23 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Government Department of Health and Human Services - DHHS COVID-19 Emergency Response; \$15,909,513 (Source of Funds: General Fund Reserves).

COVID is a serious issue for our communities, and will only become more serious now that the federal emergency order has ended. This weekend, days after the expiration of the federal emergency order, I was unable to help a high-risk loved one locate a PCR test. The county funding PCRs would make an enormous difference. Not only is it critical to know if one is sick with COVID as soon as possible to be able to access Paxlovid to reduce the chances of hospitalization or death, knowing one is sick with COVID is essential to slowing the spread of the virus. If people are unable to test for COVID, it will be in the air everywhere. If it is in the air everywhere, high-risk people like me are locked out of society.

Please fully fund this supplemental appropriation to help ensure that our communities are able to access essential COVID services. Please also consider adding funding for free high-quality masks, because they are essential tools for stopping transmission of the virus.

Sincerely,

Rosa Greenberg