

Good Evening Montgomery County Council:

My name is Jeredine Yohn, and I am a dedicated paraeducator at Albert Einstein High School, where I work one-on-one with a student who has Autism. I truly love my work and the positive impact I can have on my student's life. However, despite my passion and commitment, I am struggling financially. As a single mother, I am responsible for paying my mortgage, my son's education, and covering other bills, and my current salary from MCPS is not enough to meet these needs. I've even had to take on a second job to make ends meet, but the lack of pay during no-work days, sometimes 15 or more days a year only makes things harder.

Today, I had to call off my second job to attend this meeting because it is crucial that we, as paraeducators, get the compensation we truly deserve. Last year, I tried to initiate a petition to address this issue, advocating for better pay during no-work days, but unfortunately, it did not succeed. I'm here today to reiterate how vital paraeducators are in the classroom and to emphasize that we should be compensated fairly for the essential work we do. Our role in supporting students is critical, and it is time our compensation reflects that value.

Jeredine Yohn  
Paraeducator  
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