EMPOWERING Seniors and Adults with Disabilities to Live Their BEST LIVES

April 9, 2025

Subject Line: Testimony in Support of the Adult Medical Day Care (AMDC) Supplement Submitted to the Montgomery County Council
Submitted by: Cheri Sanzi, CEO, Winter Growth

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of the Adult Medical Day Care (AMDC) Supplement. My name is Cheri Sanzi, and I serve as the CEO of Winter Growth, a nonprofit organization that has provided Adult Medical Day Care services in Montgomery County since 1979.

Winter Growth's Olney-based Adult Medical Day Center serves approximately 76 older adults and adults with disabilities each week. Our program is designed to help participants live safely at home for as long as possible while promoting their physical, cognitive, and social well-being. For many families, Adult Day services are the key to maintaining employment and managing caregiving responsibilities while ensuring their loved ones receive the care and attention they need during the day.

Of the individuals we serve, 16 attend through Medicaid, 8 through Montgomery County Senior Care, and others through the ARC Respite Program, the VA, Foster Care, and the Maryland Department of Health's DayCare Grant. While Medicaid and other funding sources are critical, the reimbursement rates do not fully cover the actual costs associated with delivering high-quality, person-centered care.

The County's AMDC Supplement plays a crucial role in bridging this financial gap. Without it, many providers, including Winter Growth, would face significant challenges in sustaining services for the community's most vulnerable residents.

I respectfully urge the Council to support the County Executive's proposed 3% increase to the AMDC Supplement. This investment will help ensure that older adults in our county can continue to access the daily care they need to remain healthy, engaged, and living at home for as long as possible.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to supporting our aging population.

Respectfully,

Cheri Sanzi, CEO

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