

Saanvi Lanke, 7th Grade Student

Testimony in Favor of Bill 11-25, Child Care Coordination

Hello Montgomery County Council,

My name is Saanvi Lanke, and I am a Montgomery County Public School student. I'm writing in strong support of Bill 11-25, *Child Care Coordination*. This bill would help expand access to affordable, high-quality child care, support working families, and strengthen small businesses by providing essential financial assistance for child care benefits.

A deep crisis facing families in Montgomery County is the declining number of child care providers and the rising costs of child care. This leaves many families facing difficult decisions, struggling to maintain their jobs while ensuring their children are safe and cared for. Local businesses are also impacted, and child care providers themselves are working to stay strong in an uncertain environment. Child care isn't just a family issue, it's a community issue. When families struggle, our economy struggles, and the children who represent the future of our workforce are affected by the decisions we make today.

As a child, my family had better access to child care resources. When my parents began their search, they encountered a broad range of options at different price points and with various advantages. Although the process was time-consuming, providers' availability meant they could eventually choose care that aligned with our family's values, schedule, and financial situation. This bill would help ensure that families today and in the future have access to that same opportunity, if not better.

By advancing this bill, stressed parents are empowered to thrive at work and ultimately strengthen our local economy. The four-year action plan outlined in the bill shows that Montgomery County is thinking long-term and committing to real, systemic

change. By supporting families who have historically faced barriers to early education, we're also advancing equity, the foundation of MCPS's success.

Thank you for your time and for prioritizing the needs of families across Montgomery County. Bill 11-25 is not just a step toward solving our child care crisis, it's a meaningful investment in our future. By supporting this legislation, you are standing up for working parents, small businesses, and most importantly, the children who deserve a strong start in life. I urge you to pass this bill and continue building a county where every family has the support they need to thrive.

Thanks for your consideration,

Saanvi Lanke