

Testimony to the Montgomery County Council

Re: FY25 Proposed Budget Cuts

Submitted by: LaToya Hutchins

Resident, Parent, and Educator

Date: May 12, 2025

Dear Councilmembers,

My name is LaToya Hutchins, and I am a proud resident of Montgomery County, a parent of two elementary-aged children, and an educator. I am writing today to express my strong opposition to the proposed FY25 budget cuts that target critical programs and services—especially those impacting East County, where the needs are great and the resources are already stretched thin.

Once again, East County is facing a disproportionate share of the proposed reductions. Cuts to essential health and human services—including medical and dental care, housing assistance, and food support—would deeply harm the most vulnerable members of our community. These are not optional programs; they are vital lifelines for families who are already struggling with the rising cost of living, housing instability, and systemic inequities.

The proposed multimillion-dollar cuts to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) are equally troubling. If enacted, they could mean larger class sizes, fewer teachers, and reduced support for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and those who need language services. These cuts would hit East County schools especially hard, where student needs are high and resources have historically lagged behind other parts of the county.

As a parent and educator, I know the damage these cuts will cause—not just in classrooms, but across our community. We cannot ask our children to do more with less. We cannot ask struggling families to bear more of the burden while we strip away the very supports designed to help them thrive.

I urge you to reconsider these harmful reductions and prioritize full funding for MCPS and Health and Human Services. Our schools and our safety net must be protected if we are to ensure a just and equitable future for Montgomery County.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to the residents of this county.

Sincerely,

LaToya Hutchins

[Redacted Signature]