

Subject: Resolution to Increase County Tax Income Rate

Dear Council Members Stewart, Jawando, Albernoz, Balcombe, Glass, Fani-Gonzales, Katz, Friedson, Luedtke, Mink, and Sayles,

I am a resident of Montgomery County and I am writing to express my support for the moderate income tax proposal by the County Executive.

As a resident of Montgomery County, I support increasing revenues to make up for state and federal shortfalls. I also understand that without additional funds you will need to make very difficult decisions on cuts to areas critical for keeping our community well - including funds for education, healthcare and other social services. I am willing to pay \$100 for every \$100,000 of taxable income my household makes to preserve funding for these areas.

In the area of healthcare, I am grateful for the county's investment in the healthcare safety net and I believe in supporting and caring for members of our community who are uninsured and vulnerable. Last year, the Montgomery Cares health centers that are part of the safety net did not receive any increase in their reimbursement while these same health centers experienced increasing costs. Also, the Care for Kids program has consistently run out of funding each year and requires more funding for healthcare services. Lack of increase in funding leaves our health centers - and patients - in difficult predicaments and with an uncertain and unsustainable future. Further, our emergency room (ER) wait times are so long in our area hospitals - and without regular care, it means that more patients will flood our ERs.

I am an infectious disease doctor working in community health care clinics in DC and Virginia and know how important continued support for safety net clinics is for serving the underserved and uninsured population.

The moderate income tax increase is essential to ensure that the county can continue to support critical healthcare for the uninsured programs, including Montgomery Cares and Care For Kids, while also supporting education and other social services. I urge you to vote in favor for the income tax increase so we can continue to be a county that welcomes all and acknowledges the diversity that makes me proud to call Montgomery County my home.

Thank you,

Dr. Ana Maria Espinoza