

COMMISSION FOR WOMEN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CLUSTER

July 7, 2025 Councilor Kate Stewart President, Montgomery County Council Stella Werner Council Office Building Rockville, MD 20850

RE: Bill 21-25 Day Care & Child Care Property Tax Credit

Position: **SUPPORT**

Dear Council President Stewart, and members of the County Council,

On behalf of the Montgomery County Commission for Women, I am writing to ask for your support of Bill 21-25 Day Care and Child Care Property Tax Credit. This bill increases the tax credit for day care and childcare properties from \$3,000 to \$10,000, as well as expands eligibility for the tax credit to include large family childcare homes.

Montgomery County Commission for Women advocates for legislation that promotes the equal and full participation of women and girls in every aspect of community living and access to education, healthcare, and work advancement with political and economic power. Affordable childcare plays a critical role in supporting women's participation in the workforce, while ensuring competitive compensation for childcare providers, a field largely comprised of women, is equally important.

This bill addresses critical gaps in childcare needs in the county. As a study identified last year, there is a shortage of childcare providers in the county, particularly for children under the age of five years¹. Meanwhile, childcare providers in the county want to increase their enrollments, but are unable to, because of costs². Increasing the tax credit, and expanding who qualifies for it, helps day care and childcare establishments offset costs. In turn, some centers may choose to hire more staff and increase enrollment, addressing the childcare shortage in the county.

Therefore, I urge a favorable report on Bill 21-25.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Elizabeth Richards Chair, Policy & Legislative Committee Montgomery County Commission for Women

¹ Rosch, J.L., & Goldstein, I. (2024). The state of supply and demand for childcare in Montgomery County, Maryland. https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/StateSupplyDemand_final_January2025.pdf
² Rosch, J.L., & Goldstein, I. (2024). The state of supply and demand for childcare in Montgomery County, Maryland. https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/StateSupplyDemand_final_January2025.pdf