

Testimony of Tiffany Jones

President, Family Child Care Association of Montgomery County (FCCAMC)

Re: Expedited Bill 23-25 – Early Care and Education Coordinating Entity

Position: Favorable with Amendments

Date: 7/15/25

Good afternoon County Councilmembers,

My name is Tiffany Jones, and I am the proud President of the Family Child Care Association of Montgomery County (FCCAMC). We represent licensed family child care educators across the county—educators who serve families every day with high-quality, culturally grounded care, often operating on the margins but deeply rooted in their communities.

I submit this testimony favorable with amendments for Expedited Bill 23-25. While we understand that updates to the Children’s Opportunity Alliance (COA) legislation are needed, and we acknowledge concerns regarding duplication, we urge the Council to reconsider several proposed restrictions that would significantly impact COA’s ability to support and transform Montgomery County’s early care and education system.

The changes that prohibit COA from awarding or funding grants, entering into contracts with providers, or providing goods and services—are not in service of the youngest children or the early care and education providers who support them. These limitations run counter to the innovation, responsiveness, and equity that COA was designed to embody.

As an independent nonprofit, COA has the agility to pilot new ideas, identify system gaps, and act swiftly—complementing the absolutely essential, albeit slower, processes of our government partners. Removing this capacity limits COA’s potential to lead with innovation, to gather meaningful data, and to test scalable solutions—the very things that are necessary to make meaningful systems change.

Child care providers across Montgomery County felt seen, heard, and included when COA was first created three years ago. The intention to create a truly collaborative, coordinated entity was clear—and that intention has been honored by COA’s leadership through authentic engagement with family child care providers, center directors, advocates, and families.

This proposed bill, however, sends an unintended but troubling message: that child care providers should remain on the sidelines of systems change. That message is not aligned with the inclusive vision we believed in when COA was established.

FCCAMC urges you to maintain COA’s original mission and purpose. COA must retain its 360-

degree lens of the early childhood sector—one that uplifts all types of educators (providers), recognizes the complexity of the workforce, and remains anchored in equity. That is the only path forward that honors Montgomery County’s racial equity and social justice goals.

In closing, I urge the Council to adopt this bill with amendments that preserve COA’s ability to innovate, to connect directly with providers, and to coordinate—not duplicate—efforts with government partners. Let’s not weaken one of the few spaces where early educators have had a consistent voice and seat at the table.

Thank you for your leadership and for your continued commitment to the children, families, and educators of Montgomery County.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Jones

President, Family Child Care Association of Montgomery County (FCCAMC)