

**RE: Bill 23-25**

Members of the HHS and Education & Culture Committees,

My name is Laura Loeb, and I am a member of Washington Hebrew Congregation, which is a proud member of Action in Montgomery (AIM). I am submitting written testimony today, **as an individual**, with respect to Bill 23-25. I strongly support the Children's Opportunity Alliance (COA), based on my advocacy experience over the past two years in support of more preK seats for the children in Montgomery County. All the children in our County should have access to high-quality early childhood education. Investments in this high-quality early childhood education will result in huge dividends in improved school readiness, enhanced social and emotional development, and a stronger foundation for future learning and success.


COA has played a vital and unique role in Montgomery County. COA has not only supported early childhood providers, especially those historically overlooked, but also offered critical technical assistance, training, and resources that many providers would otherwise not receive. In doing so, COA has built trust, fostered collaboration, and created innovative, community-informed pathways for expanding early care and education across the County.

In addition to this on-the-ground support, COA has engaged in meaningful advocacy at both the local and state levels. Its work is grounded in listening to families, providers, and community voices, ensuring those most impacted by decisions are not only heard, but lead the way forward.

Now is not the time for the County Council to pull back its support of COA. I urge the County Council to continue investing in the systems and partnerships that are effectively working to create increased preK seats for our children. COA's vision, dedication, and solution-oriented approach are exactly what our County needs to build an inclusive and effective early childhood education system.

Thank you,

Laura Loeb

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