

July 11,2025

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

To: Members of the Montgomery County Council

Who requested this Bill?

Why did they request it?

Just a few years ago you set aside funds for this Entity- The Children's Opportunity Alliance- (COA) to take a fresh look at our child care and early care education system.

Certainly, you expected them to do a complete job and to propose new approaches and solutions.

If you really meant it, why would you now eliminate their mission to **“identify opportunities for and barriers to collaboration among stakeholder groups”**.

Don't you want to know if there are problems?

Don't you want to hear honestly from the early childhood community?

And why shouldn't COA **engage in Direct services** if their Board and Community Committees think that is an impactful resource in accomplishing goals.

You wanted new ideas, innovation, creativity and positive movement. Why cut out potential solutions if a contract makes sense?

Don't you want to give COA time to do the job you gave them?

Who requested this? Why?

I have spent 50 years working as a child care and early education professional in Montgomery County. I have been on every Board, Commission, Committee, Study Group, Team and Advocacy Organization that we have formed over the past 50 years. The issue of child care and ECE has been and continues to be an intractable problem.

Why pull the rug out while this new group COA tries to identify new ideas, approaches, solutions?

Respectfully,

Mary Ellen Savarese

[REDACTED]

– happy to discuss any of these issues