

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to the Board to express my concerns about adjustments that have been proposed to Expedited Bill 23-25, Early Care and Education Coordinating Entity. It is in my opinion that the ECE should continue to “secure and administer private-sector funding to support the early care and education system and manage and administer public funding directly appropriated to the Entity.” As per its original designation under Bill 42-21 which has been in effect since July 1st, 2022.

As a business owner and mother of two preschoolers in this county, I have found overwhelming support in the childcare that I have chosen for my children. The Nurturery, located at 112 W Diamond Ave, on has been able to grow and develop their early care and education program with the help of the ECE and its ability to help them find funding to accommodate those in the community who are in need. Without this funding, those children would not have access to the program which the ECE is stating that it is attempting to foster.

With the tumultuous federal political front, and the slashing of benefits for those in need being made on the federal level, it is important for the states to step in while events are unfolding. Without coverages or backups to federal programs, those in most need-the poor, those on disability, those who speak English as a second language-will suffer the most. It seems counterproductive to remove this Entity’s ability to fund the programs it states that is supporting.

With these changes, it will also affect how smaller, minority owned businesses will be able to provide these services. As a small, minority owned business owner myself who works with the demographic that will be most impacted by these changes, I can assure you that its impact will be catastrophic to early childhood education for those most in need. It will affect school budgets on a higher level further down the road and how Montgomery County is viewed in the state. Montgomery County is often viewed as exemplary for its education system and it seems contradictory to not have that extend to early childhood development.

Thank you for your time,

Shelby Beierl

LCPC