

January 22, 2026

To Whom it May Concern-

I am writing in support of increased respite funding in Montgomery County.

Easterseals Adult Day Services partners with The Arc of Montgomery County to provide respite services to family caregivers. Respite is an essential service for families in preventing caregiver burnout and keeping vulnerable people safe. Easterseals Adult Day Services provides a safe, engaging, social daytime environment for adults with developmental disabilities, cognitive impairment, physical support needs, and/or chronic health issues. Adult day services allow family caregivers to work, run errands, go to their own medical appointments, or get a much-needed break.

Several families in our program use respite funds but there is often not enough funding to cover more than 1 day a week. One of our families uses respite funds to send their 87 year old mother to our program since, due to dementia, she cannot be left home alone. She spends her day laughing with friends and engaging in activities while her daughter goes to work. Another family uses respite for their adult son with physical and intellectual disabilities to be in a safe place where staff can assist with eating lunch and using the restroom.

There are many more families in Montgomery County with an unpaid family caregiver providing round-the-clock care that would greatly benefit from respite. Expanding respite funding would allow The Arc of Montgomery County to build on the amazing work they already do to support family caregivers. Without adequate funding, families in need will be turned away or get only a fraction of the help needed. This puts our most vulnerable community members in jeopardy and may end up over burdening other resources like Adult Protective Services, Emergency Medical Services, and Emergency room care.

Thank you for considering all the testimony you receive on this critical issue. I hope the resolution passes for additional respite funding.

Sincerely,

Claire Barry, LCSW-C

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