

January 20, 2026

Council Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue, 6th Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

Re: FY26 Operating Budget for the Department of Health and Human Services' Respite Care Program

Dear Montgomery County Council,

I am writing today in support of the Respite Care Program. As you consider funding appropriations for this and other important programs I write in full support of Respite Care funding. My mom, who has Alzheimer's, and my sister, who was caring for her in her home, and by extension our family benefited from the support this funding afforded. My mom is in her late 80's, lives on Social Security and receives Medicare assistance. My sisters and I struggle to afford an outside facility that will give our mom the level of care she needs for her ever evolving illness. So through a preapproved organization we were, for a period of time, able to have a skilled in-home nurse come and care for our mom 3 days a week. Some of the cost was covered through the Respite Care program. This gave my sister a break mentally, physically and financially even if only for a few hours. Given the state of healthcare costs in our country, financial assistance is vital for those who need it most, the patient and their families who love them. Please keep this in mind as I hope you will continue funding this vital program.

Kind regards,

Diana Pabon Nugent

(Daughter of Carmen Ruiz Pabon)