

## **Written Testimony – FY27–32 Capital Improvement Program**

Dear Council President and Members of the County Council,

Thank you for your work on the FY27–32 Capital Improvement Program and for approving a plan that includes the rebuild of Cold Spring Elementary School.

I recognize the significant fiscal constraints and competing priorities involved in shaping the CIP, and I appreciate the Council’s commitment to investing in aging facilities and in schools that serve young families. Including Cold Spring Elementary reflects a thoughtful focus on safety, learning environments, and long-term community stability.

At the same time, many families in our area are aware that Wootton High School was removed from the current CIP after having appeared in prior plans. While I understand the difficult tradeoffs involved in capital planning, I share this as context for the uncertainty families experience as they try to plan for the long term. I appreciate the Council’s continued attention to balancing immediate needs with future facility considerations across the county.

As a parent, I know how much these decisions matter—not only for educational quality, but for families deciding where to live, work, and remain rooted. Investments like this help sustain strong neighborhoods and reinforce Montgomery County’s reputation as a place where families can plan with confidence.

Thank you again for your leadership, for stewarding limited resources responsibly, and for supporting communities like ours through this important investment.

Respectfully,  
Natasha Barakat, a Cold Spring Parent