

Silver Spring Child Care Center
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June 10, 2020

County Council

100 Maryland Ave.

Rockville MD 20850

RE: Testimony in consideration of Emergency funding for Early Care and Education Initiative
Recovery Fund

To County Council:

As the Executive Director of the Silver Spring Child Care Center, Inc., I want to express my gratitude that this initiative is being considered to assist early learning programs such as ours. SSCCC, a nonprofit program serving 47 children, has been in existence since 1971. We have been an active member of our local community in providing care for now generations of children from ages 2 to 5. SSCCC provides quality, play-based learning experiences for children of all social, economic, and cultural backgrounds.

We have been closed since March 13 and have yet to open. SSCCC is committed to fully supporting teachers and support staff that will be needed when the center re opens. All salaries have been fully paid with center reserves and then thankfully from the PPP funds received in May. The PPP funds have been exclusively used to meet payroll while other fixed expenses are drawn from the center reserve. Our PPP funds will be exhausted the end of June. I'm thankful our reserves have sustained us thus far but am concerned with the long-term effect of this loss of income and continued loss of income as our enrollment is unstable due to families choosing to keep their children home.

I understand and am aware of programs either closing or contemplating closure due to the painful effect caused by this unfortunate virus. This initiative clearly will be a life saver for programs of all sizes that provide an essential service to working families and most importantly children. I cannot impress enough upon you each how vital these funds will contribute to the continuity of quality care during a time families, children, and early childhood staff are experiencing great uncertainty and difficulty.

Thank you for considering my testimony during your session.

Kind regards,

Sylvia Moreno

Executive Director