Providing high quality care and play-based education since 1968

September 22, 2020

Testimony from Montgomery Child Care Association, Inc. (MCCA) regarding:

Special Appropriation to the Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Government, Early

Care and Education Non-Departmental Account, COVID-19 School-Age Child Care During Distance

Learning, \$7,687,000 (Source of Funds: Federal Grant Funds)

As a member of the Montgomery County School Age Coalition who actively participated in the coalition's work to advance opportunities for the creation of "Distance Learning Hubs" to support school age children with virtual learning, MCCA is deeply disappointed that the Special Appropriation reopening grants for full day, school age child care services require that the child care be provided in Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) buildings and administered through the Community Use of Public Facilities (CUPF).

School age child care, **both pre-pandemic and currently**, is provided by licensed child care providers in spaces other than MCPS school buildings. Working families need high quality, dependable child care that is convenient and accessible. MCCA opened four classrooms in alternate facilities to support school age children's distance learning **on the first day of school, August 31, 2020**, as MCPS buildings were not yet available to child care providers. MCCA is currently providing support to 30 children in classrooms at the Ivymount School, the Lone Oak HHS child care in public space facility and Brooke Grove HHS child care in public space facility. 13% of our currently enrolled children receive state subsidies.

Under the proposed terms of this special appropriation, MCCA would not be eligible to receive \$78,000 in desperately needed funds to support its child care opening expenses simply because our licensed child care is not housed in a MCPS building. We were ready to support children on the first day of school and are now being penalized for our commitment to providing working families the licensed child care they desperately need during this virtual learning academic year.

We respectfully request that the County Council amend the requirements for eligibility for a reopening grant to include any licensed child care provider that is delivering child care distance learning support to school age children in Montgomery County. All qualified and licensed school age child care providers should have equal access to the Special Appropriation reopening grant funding.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Martineau Green Executive Director