

To whom it may concern,

I am writing regarding the Montgomery County Council's potential action on a Resolution approving Executive Order No. 117-20, COVID-19 Local Order. It is my understanding that the Council is considering reducing capacity at daycares, but considering opening escape rooms, allowing ice rinks to open, continuing to allow outdoor sports to operate, among other things.

This is a terrible idea. Many working parents have no other option but to send their kids to daycare. Reducing the number of children allowed in daycare may result in losing our daycare spot, which could, in return, lead to having to quit my job or take an unpaid leave of absence to care for my child. Not only does a policy of reducing childcare disproportionately impact women, it hurts the economy and hurts families. If daycares are currently operating within guidelines and taking appropriate measures ensuring no COVID outbreaks are happening, then they should be allowed to remain at their current capacity. There is no reason to change what is working.

Of additional note, the Montgomery County Council prioritizing non-essential businesses and activities over the ability of parents to continue working with childcare is disappointing. Our children's well-being and their parents' continued ability to provide should be a top priority for the County..

Regards,
Rebecca Rivera