

Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing regarding Executive Order 122-20 (amending 117-20), which I understand will be considered this Thursday 11/3/2020.

It is my understanding that the County Council is considering reducing capacity at daycares and preschools, but considering opening escape rooms, allowing ice rinks to open, continuing to allow outdoor sports to operate, among other things.

I would like to urge the council to reconsider this amendment and keep childcare centers open the way they currently are, ie following all CDC protocols and keeping children, caregivers and families safe and happy.

There has been numerous studies proving childcare centers do not participate in the spread of COVID-19 if the facilities are strictly facilitating protocols (which they are in MD):

- From Yale: Childcare not associated with spread of COVID-19 (10/16/2020):
<https://news.yale.edu/2020/10/16/child-care-not-associated-spread-covid-19-yale-study-finds>
- CDC Study: https://www.washingtonpost.com/context/coronavirus-transmission-in-rhode-island-child-care-programs/06b589fd-6819-4014-9d91-032d90581c8b/?itid=lk_inline_manual_4&itid=lk_inline_manual_37

Both my children have been in preschool/daycare for the past 2 months. They are happy and safe, and there has been no risk associated with COVID19 in neither of those schools. It has allowed my husband and I to both keep our job and to participate in keeping the economy strong.

I do not understand how this county keeps prioritizing adult entertainment and not the wellbeing of small children. Escape rooms are not needed to restart the economy, ice rinks are not needed to keep mothers on the workforce. However, daycare enforcing strict CDC rules – just way they currently are – are desperately needed.

Please do not put in place more restrictions on daycares that are already safe. I want my kids' schools to be able to stay open at their current capacity, and I do not want the county to take measures that would further hurt our families, economy, and workers.

Thank you,
Sarah Breitenother