

Regarding Special Appropriation to the County Government's FY22 Operating Budget, Guaranteed Income Non-Departmental Account (NDA) – Guaranteed Income (GI) Pilot Program; \$1,993,832

I have been a resident of Montgomery County since 1985. Both of my children's K-12 education was in Montgomery County public schools. I am strongly opposed to this proposal to provide guaranteed income to county residents. Why? Because I believe that we serve those in need best when we help them improve their condition for the long term, not merely by providing immediate relief. I believe that this type of program discourages self-improvement and advancement. In some cases, I believe it can even serve to reward undesirable behaviors. So, what would I advocate? How about providing financial supplements to those who are working but still struggle financially? The so-called working poor. How about subsidies for childcare to enable people to enter the work force? How about stipends and educational supplements to those attending an educational or vocational program? Yes, we can help improve the lives of those in the need within our county. However, we can, and should do it in ways that will lead to greater self-sufficiency over those programs that may lead to greater dependence. In addition to the potential negative effect at the individual level, this program could also be bad for the local economy. My neighbors own of a small business within the county. They have been struggling to hire new employees. Providing income without a connection to employment or education is likely to only exacerbate the challenges of local businesses. I urge you to consider other options to help those in need, as opposed to a guaranteed income approach.

Robert Eisenberg

This afternoon I spoke at the council meeting regarding my objection to the guaranteed income pilot. As I stated, I believe we should instead tie financial support to employment or educational activities. I couldn't help but notice that all of those who shared personal stories in favor of the pilot would also be eligible for a program with conditions as I described. Clearly these are exactly the type of people we want to help. They are clearly trying to improve their state in life. In some ways, they only re-enforce my position on targeted assistance.

Robert Eisenberg