

To the Members of the County Council:

I have lived in this county for over 30 years. I have watched with dismay as a once much coveted and desired place to live has fallen. Great schools and low crime were certainly **once** a draw. I have considered leaving this county for the last few years due to the ever increasing taxes and decline in services. If this bill passes it, it will make it that much closer to pushing us out of the county. Therefore, I am writing in opposition to the 5-24, the Child Investment Fund.

In 2021 there were approximately 12,000 births in Montgomery County. At \$1800 a child beginning in January 2024 that will be about 22 million dollars a year financial burden on the taxpayers and a liability promise for future generations to incur. That kind of money might be better spent on reducing crime. Perhaps a better quality of education is more important than a 'feel good giveaway,' which this legislation attempts to do. Moreover, people are struggling to put food on the table and gas in their cars, and yet this county council seems to want to continually spend more of the TAXPAYER's Money.

The bill says that this money will be used for vocational or educational expenses. There are loans at banks, which is what I got when I started school - and I had to pay them back. I came from a family which was somewhat poor - there was no "**generational wealth,**" in my case. But I wanted to go to school. I worked hard and I paid my loans back. Why are taxpayers continually on the hook to provide free stuff for others?

With the cost of everything going up, in this county, the likelihood of being able for that recipient to invest in a business in this overly regulated county are, probably not the greatest given your current trajectory. Businesses are leaving Montgomery County - one need only look at recent examples of Amazon leaving for Virginia. Small mom and pop shops, are struggling in this county .

It is worrisome when the county council calls for a bill like this to set up yet another unfunded liability for the taxpayers. Have we not learned our lessons from unfunded pension liabilities, which ranks Maryland in the top 10 states of underfunded liabilities as a State? Why are you putting the taxpayers on the hook with even more promises? .

This 'investment program is pure pandering to certain segments of the county. Please oppose County Council bill 5-24.