

To Members of the Montgomery County Council

On behalf of my mother who suffered a paralyzing stroke in June 2015 and is now afflicted with severe Dementia, I am very disappointed in the County Executive's recommendation that the budget for the ARC Respite program be cut.

This is a disgrace because it is the one program funded by the County whose budget should be increased not cut. This proposal by the County Executive's shows a lack of caring and respect for our most vulnerable senior citizens and those who care for them. Caring for those who cannot care for themselves is not only a moral obligation to those who have given so much to our society it is necessary that the well being, mental and emotional health of those who care for them also be safeguarded and secured so that they can be productive members of our community.

I hope the Council will look carefully at the millions of dollars that are wasted on spending in the budget for the school system that has been proposed by the County Executive that yield little or no return on our investment year after year.

I urge the County Council to restore the funding for the Respite Program to the Dept. Of Health and Human Services Budget as it is imperative to the well being of the County's senior citizens.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Dixon

Caregiver for 95 year old Mother

Former Educator (30 years in MCPS) and Member of Montgomery County Board of Education 2016-2020