



**Testimony from Lavontte Chatmon, Executive Director of Nonprofit Montgomery
Montgomery County State Delegation Priorities Meeting, Nov. 14, 2022.**

Hello Senators and Delegates. Thank you for the opportunity to represent the priorities of the nonprofit sector in this forum tonight.

My name is Lavontte Chatmon and I'm the Executive Director of Nonprofit Montgomery. We support more than 200 nonprofit organizations with technical assistance, training and resources, and advocacy on issues of importance to the nonprofit sector. Our cross-sector initiative, Montgomery Moving Forward, addresses social and economic challenges through a collective impact process that leads to long term solutions.

I'm here today to ask your continued support for the nonprofit sector. As you know, there are an estimated 6,100 nonprofits in Montgomery County, which employ 49,000 people, with annual wages totaling almost \$3 million. These organizations serve residents in every district, and every zip code in the County. As a general principle, we ask that you see us as your partners in working with the General Assembly and the new Moore Administration to ensure that Montgomery County residents get the services and resources they need to thrive.

We're especially interested in the outcome of efforts to streamline and clarify the procurement process for nonprofits, so we no longer have to float state-funded projects while wondering when the check will arrive. And we're looking forward to working with you to leverage your new powers in deciding on budget matters.

More specifically, we request your support on the following:

Current "prompt pay laws" and regulations that set standards for review of invoices don't apply to the reimbursable grant agreements that most nonprofits hold with the state. There've been efforts to pass legislation to create parity, and last year a bill made it through the Senate. We ask that you take steps to ensure that nonprofits serving Maryland communities are entitled to the same regulations as businesses that contract with the state.

As an interim measure the NIMBL loan fund can help nonprofits continue to do their work while waiting for state payments. Nonprofit Montgomery supports increasing the funding of the NIMBL Account to the full \$1,000,000 that was originally envisioned allowing more Maryland nonprofits to take advantage of this interest free, micro bridge loan.



Additionally, your support of early care and education over the last 2 years has been tremendous and critical for child care providers, families, and the littlest learners. We look forward to working with you to explore what universal access to child care looks like and to make this dream a reality across Maryland.

In the upcoming General Assembly session, we're eager for you to monitor the implementation of early care and education legislation, particularly legislation relating to presumptive eligibility for parents and timely payment of child care providers.

We're also interested in what the implementation of the Blueprint will mean for our youngest learners and ask for your continued attention to ensuring child care providers are involved in the rollout process.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to working with you and our MSDE partners in ensuring a more equitable, timely, and culturally appropriate early care and education system and creating a more resilient and representative child care system in our state.

Thank you very much.