



Post Office Box 1123
Bethesda, MD 20827-1123

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My name is Jerry Garson and I am a Certified Public Accountant, speaking on behalf of the Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc. which represents over 150,000 Montgomery County residents.

The mission of the MCCF is to preserve and improve the quality of life for all current and future residents of Montgomery County, Maryland.

HB 795 is a bill for the purpose of authorizing the County Council of Montgomery County to enact a local law that grants to the Montgomery County Inspector General certain authority over the Montgomery County Board of Education and public schools located in Montgomery County. We ask for a favorable report on the bill.

Since over half of the County's budget is for education, and the oversight of such a large expenditure is very important. For your information the Operating Budget for 2020 is \$2,680,574,773 and the Capital Budget for 2021 is \$378,133,000 both are very large amounts.

We would that the Inspector General would have an adequate budget and staff to supervise the expenditure of over 3 Billion Dollars. We think this bill is a good start. When you spend over 3 Billion dollars oversight is very important to the taxpayers of the county.

We are concerned when the Comptroller of Maryland says that it costs Montgomery County twice what it costs Fairfax County to build a school, therefore we get half as many schools built and we have a significant amount of overcrowding.

We have to question how the rebuilding of Bells Mill Elementary School that occurred in the 21st Century could have a gym built without air conditioning. The Montgomery Council just passed a bill requiring landlords to have air conditioning in all rental apartments. It is often very hot in May, June and September.

We also would like an inspector general to ask why, each classroom built in new schools does not have a separate thermostat, so each teacher can set the temperature of the classroom. We see Winston Churchill High School having open windows on days that the temperature is below 20 degrees. This wastes heat and increases costs.

Since its founding in 1925, the volunteers of the MCCF have committed themselves to providing an effective citizen voice to government policy makers, both elected and appointed. The Civic Federation is a not-for-profit, county-wide umbrella group designed to promote cooperation, education and effectiveness of civic and community associations in Montgomery County.

It addresses a wide range of concerns in transportation, land use, environment, education, budget and finance, public safety, and ethics. With its strength of numbers and thoroughness of its deliberations, the Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc. influences county policy and balances the activities of vested county pressure groups.

Thank you for considering our views.