



Administration
Communications & Outreach • Finance
Healthcare Services • Human Resources
& Staff Development • Information
Technology • Quality Assurance
Resource Development • Respite
7362 Calhoun Place
Rockville, MD 20855

Adult Services
Inclusive Living
Community Living
& Personal Supports
Employment & Day
Employment & Meaningful Day
7362 Calhoun Place
Rockville, MD 20855

Children & Youth Services
After All
4140 Wexford Drive
Kensington, MD 20895
KFICCC
10611 Tenbrook Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20901

Urban Thrift
10730 Connecticut Avenue
Kensington, MD 20895

301.984.5777



www.TheArcMontgomeryCounty.org

**House Bill 143
Ways and Means Committee – January 14, 2021
SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Kaiser, Vice Chair Washington, and esteemed members of the Ways and Means Committee:

The Arc Montgomery County fully supports HB 143 submitted by Delegate Palakovich Carr.

Each day, The Arc Montgomery County directly supports over 500 children, youth, adults and families by providing child care, work skills training, employment opportunities, community living services, resources, advocacy and respite care. Programs for children and youth include the Karasik Family, Infant and Child Care Center (KFICCC) and After All. KFICCC is a fully inclusive child care center for children ages 6 weeks through 10 years with disabilities or chronic health issues as well as typically developing children. After All is an afterschool program (full day in the summer and school breaks) for youth ages 11-21 who have intellectual or developmental disabilities. Both of these programs fill a void since similar options are not readily available throughout Maryland.

Families of children with disabilities face many obstacles, including the ability to work outside the home due to the lack of childcare providers who can meet their children's special needs. Families of children with disabilities are often among the lowest wage earners for this reason. The plight of families falling into this category is compounded by their inability to claim the federal Child Tax Credit because they earn too little money.

Those families who are able to find appropriate childcare often have difficulty as their children grow older. Childcare options for children older than elementary school age are few and far between yet many children with disabilities are unable to safely stay home alone afterschool. HB 143 creates a State Child Tax Credit for families with dependents ages 0-16 who have a physical, emotional, intellectual or developmental disability.

HB 143 creates a lifeline for families who need it most: very low-income families including families of children with disabilities and immigrants whose children do not have social security numbers. The effects of extreme poverty on children are well-documented and lasting. HB 143 will help to give these children greater opportunities that will improve their outcomes as both children and adults.

The Arc Montgomery County asks for your support for HB 143 and strongly urges a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Daria Cervantes

Interim Chief Executive Officer

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