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7362 Calhoun Place
Rockville, MD 20855

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

Dear Chair Wells and members of the Committee,

The Arc Montgomery County is submitting this testimony in support of SB0069, the Nonprofit Organizations Navigator – Termination Provision – Repeal. During a time of uncertainty, where state and federal resources are being rolled back as the demand for non-profits increases, it is imperative that the role of nonprofit navigator be preserved.

In the past six months alone, the current navigator, Jessica Doiron, has had a measurable impact on nonprofits in Maryland. From the start she has met with many nonprofits across the state, assisted many with vital contacts, began publishing a monthly newsletter, and organized a plethora of online resources. These online resources alone are invaluable and have assisted many nonprofits to manage an increasingly difficult fiscal period.

Through her work, Ms. Doiron has helped over 100 nonprofits through technical assistance, organizational knowledge, training, and coordination. Every dollar that she has helped to secure, or coordinate, is a dollar that is not needed to be supplied by the Federal, State, or Local governments. This fact is particularly salient when you consider the massive attack on nonprofits by the Federal Government, and reduction in funds from the State of Maryland.

The Arc Montgomery County itself is a nonprofit that has had to get creative on how we utilize resources and personnel to continue supporting the disability community. Between last year and this year, we have faced significant cuts across two years. Despite this, we have yet to significantly roll back the services we offer. However, this trend can not continue indefinitely. Many nonprofits have had to rely on additional grants and contracts to balance their finances, or risk closing.

In past years, nonprofits have had three main sources of revenue, government funding, grants/contracts, and philanthropic giving. Unfortunately, government funding has become unreliable in the last couple of years due to a shift in priorities at the federal level, and difficult budget years at the state and local levels. Concurrently, last year it was estimated that between 2021 and 2025, philanthropic giving had declined by \$65 billion. To allow the nonprofit navigator position to be sunset at such a critical time for nonprofits would be a grave mistake, particularly when their services will be needed the most.

Thank you for your consideration,

Chris Leacock



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