



# WOMAN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

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October 31, 2016

Hon. Isiah Leggett  
County Executive  
Montgomery County MD

Dear Mr. Leggett:

On behalf of the Board of the Woman's Democratic Club of Montgomery County, I write to strongly urge you to include funding for safe exchange and supervised visitation centers for victims of domestic violence and their children as a priority item in your FY 18 budget.

Domestic violence victims urgently need these sites for safe exchanges to avoid the potential for ongoing harassment, injury, or re-traumatization by their abusers. Children from violent homes are also victims; they need a place where parents can exchange them safely and where visits can be monitored by trained supervisors when necessary.

Because families will use these services on an ongoing basis, proximity and accessibility are essential. Without accessible County-funded safe exchange and supervised visitation sites, domestic violence victims and their children continue to be endangered, creating risks to public safety.

Since victims of domestic violence, including children, are spread across the 500 square miles of Montgomery County, the Woman's Democratic Club of Montgomery County recommends a network of safe, accessible centers for child exchange and supervised visitation.

We urge you to take the first step toward this network of safe places for domestic violence victims and their children by requesting funding as a priority item in the FY 18 budget.

Sincerely,

Linda Kolko  
President