

Budget and Taxation Committee

February 26, 2020

Testimony of Martha Nathanson, Vice President, Government Relations and Community Development,  
LifeBridge Health

Position: SB192 - Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2020 – **SUPPORT with Amendment**

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**Background:** LifeBridge Health is the parent company of Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, Northwest Hospital, Carroll Hospital Center, and Grace Medical Center (formerly Bon Scours Hospital). Hospitals and health care facilities are, indeed, the very types of entities for which Seed funding is targeted. For example, at Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, near Pimlico Race Course, we have facilitated capital improvements along the nearby east-west Belvedere Avenue corridor, bordering our facility and the track. At Northwest, a suburban setting, we are investing in improvements along Old Court and Liberty Roads, partnering with Baltimore County and the State to enhance streetscaping. At Carroll Hospital, in a rural area, enhancing walkability with sidewalks and walking paths will bring much needed activity to areas in need of revitalization.

**Planned Improvements:** Sinai Hospital is developing our parcel adjacent to Pimlico Race Course. The initial building, set for groundbreaking around December, 2020, is our Center for Hope, a comprehensive violence intervention and prevention center of excellence, which received Seed funding in FY20. This improvement, along with implementation of the Park Heights Master Plan recommendations for housing, green space, a library, workforce housing and other projects, as well as complementary full-scale redevelopment of the Race Course property, will further catalyze the redevelopment of the entire Park Heights community – indeed, the precise goal of the Seed Fund.

**Comprehensive VIP: Violence Intervention and Prevention Center of Excellence.** Envisioned based upon our community's recommendations pursuant to our Community Health Needs Assessment under the Affordable Care Act, identifying violence as the most challenging health condition, the VIP building will house the Baltimore Child Abuse Center; the Kujichagulia Center providing job training and internships for men who have been victims of traumatic violence; the hospital-based violence intervention program which intervenes with patients who are victims of violence to ensure their safety, and; a branch of the Safe Streets program building on the success of the existing Park Heights program. It will also house our elder abuse and domestic violence intervention and prevention programs. Most critically, the VIP Center will provide ready access for Center clients, family and community members to engage in violence prevention capacity building, including employment.

**Hospital Anchor Role:** The Seed legislation builds on anchors' relationship with their nearby communities. Hospitals operating under a global budget created as part of the Maryland All-Payor system focus more than ever on the social determinants of health – good schools, safe neighborhoods, effective transportation, decent housing, and a green, healthy environment, among others. These factors impact our communities' health, and under the population health model, fit squarely into our objectives. The Seed Community Anchor Institution Fund is just the "kick" needed to jumpstart the types of projects that will greatly enhance our communities and the health of our residents, and we request it be fully funded at \$10M.

Amendment #1: SB192 (BRFA), Page 18, delete in their entirety lines 9 through 16.