



FAIR CARE FOR MARYLAND

March 2nd, 2020



THE FAIR CARE FOR MARYLAND BILL (*HB#1169*)

Ensures that tax-exempt hospitals do their fair share for improving the health of Maryland's diverse communities.



The Context

- Many Marylanders struggle to afford and access the healthcare that our families need.
- Maryland's hospitals get generous tax breaks in exchange for funding "community benefits."
- Community benefits are initiatives and activities hospitals undertake to improve the health of the community they serve.
- Maryland law does not specify a minimum level of community benefit spending that qualifies a hospital for tax-exempt status.



Community Health Needs Assessments

- Community benefits spending should address needs identified in Community Health Needs Assessments, mandated by the Affordable Care Act.
- These assessments are both a document and a process that identify community health needs and plans to address them.
- The process emphasizes incorporating input from community members in the assessment of their health needs.



*Do all hospitals adequately spend on programs
that actually improve community health
outcomes?*

**We deserve a clear answer
and a plan.**

The Research

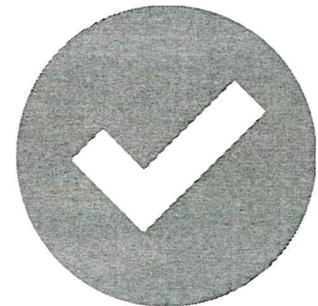
Analysis of all FY 2018 narrative and financial reports filed with the HSCRC found:

- Lack of transparency
- Lack of accountability
- Lack of community input

Only 41.4% of reported spending directly funded community benefits not covered by rate relief.

Western Maryland Health System

- \$1.6 million on a program dedicated to chronic disease management that reached 1599 people.
- The program targeted low-income residents in efforts to reduce Emergency Department visits.





MedStar Union Memorial Hospital

- Reported spending \$37.4 million on community benefits.
- The narrative report only detailed \$9,063 of spending on community health initiatives.



THE SOLUTION

The Fair Care for Maryland Bill (HB#1169)
would:

1. Create a working group that sets minimum community benefits spending for each hospital.
2. Mandate meaningful public engagement in identifying community health needs.
3. Require hospitals to clearly report their community benefit expenditures, tax exempt disclosures, and other financial measures.