



**Big House
SIGNS**

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March 2, 2020

The Honorable Shane Pendergrass, Chairwoman
The Honorable Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

RE: Support:

HB 926 – Health care Facility Closure (Public Notification)

HB 1277 – Harford Memorial Economic Impact Study

HB 1571 – Hospital Employee Retraining and Placement

I have been a business owner and resident of Havre de Grace for 20 years and on 3 occasions in the past ten years I have become gravely sick late at night. As a single woman who does not want to be a burden to friends or family, I was so grateful to be able to get in my car and drive ½ a mile to Harford Memorial. Had it not been there I probably would have waited longer hoping to get better and then ultimately had to have called an ambulance to get to Bel Air...which would have added cost to my care.

Harford Memorial Hospital has served the Havre de Grace community for more than 100 years. It was built on land donated by local landowners to serve the health care needs of our community. Over the past 100 years, Harford Memorial Hospital has been at the center of our town, literally and figuratively. So many retirees choose this town because of Harford Memorial.

Today we are here to support a package of legislation that addresses problems our community is facing as a result of legislation passed by the Maryland General Assembly and the absence of community safeguards that were not and are not in place to protect us.

The unintended consequences of closing an acute care hospital in Maryland's second-oldest city is yet to be determined. We know the result will be the loss of healthcare services and jobs. We also know, there is no plan for redevelopment only sale of the property, therefore we together with our legislators are asking HB 926, HB1277, and HB 1571 to be viewed as companion legislation to address the past, present, and future of Harford Memorial Hospital in the City of Havre de Grace.

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I respectfully request your favorable report on House Bills 926,1277 and 1571, to help our community overcome this situation.

Paula Casagrande

Owner/Big House Signs