



January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025

House Bill 43 Federally Qualified Health Centers Grant Program - Acquisition of Land  
Position: Support

Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and distinguished members of the House Appropriations Committee,

On behalf of Greater Baden Medical Services (GBMS), I am pleased to offer their strong support for House Bill 43, which seeks to amend the Maryland Federally Qualified Health Centers Grant Program to allow the use of capital funds for land acquisition purposes.

Greater Baden Medical Services (GBMS) is a federally qualified health center (FQHC) that operates in multiple locations in Prince George’s County, St. Mary’s County, and Charles County, providing comprehensive healthcare services to underserved communities. As a vital part of Maryland’s healthcare safety net, GBMS serves over 63,000 patients annually statewide, including individuals from low-income households, uninsured or underinsured populations, and those who experience significant barriers to accessing care.

**Low-Income residents in/around Capitol Heights**

Target Population Zip Code	City	Number of Low Income Residents	Number Served by any Health Center	Number Served at Greater Baden	Unmet Need
20706	Lanham	10,201	2,557	179	7,644
20735	Clinton	3,881	1,570	1,231	2,311
20743	Capital Heights	10,947	4,293	2,193	6,654
20744	Fort Washington	7,496	2,038	1,400	5,458
20745	Oxon Hill	7,093	2,574	1,694	4,519
20746	Suitland	7,044	2,004	1,189	5,040
20747	District Heights	11,522	2,820	1,836	8,702
20748	Temple Hills	8,030	2,203	1,286	5,827
20772	Upper Marlboro	4,484	1,164	658	3,320
20774	Upper Marlboro	4,717	1,009	303	3,708
20784	Hyattsville	7,579	2,757	186	4,822
20785	Hyattsville	12,228	2,458	516	9,770
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>95,222</b>	<b>27,447</b>	<b>12,671</b>	<b>67,775</b>

Source: Health Resources and Services Administration. 2023. “UDS Mapper” (Web Application). <http://www.udsmapper.org>. Accessed April, 2023.

GBMS through its location in Capitol Heights, Maryland serves approximately 12,000 Maryland residents within that region. Even with GBMS’ operations this region experiences a persistent and expansive unmet healthcare need among its residents. This has prompted Greater Baden Medical services to build a new location in Capitol Heights that will drastically expand service

capacity. This new location will allow GBMS to hire an additional 20 healthcare clinicians and serve 30,000 more patients. All while keeping the current Capitol Heights location open.

GBMS is a nonprofit which relies on public funding, Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements, and donations to operate and grow to meet healthcare needs. Additionally, FQHCs are mandated by the Federal government to serve patients who are uninsured and do not have the means to pay for healthcare. When FQHCs like GBMS face seek to undergo capital projects, the process to secure adequate financing can be onerous and cost prohibitive. As the law is currently written, the Federally Qualified Health Center Grant fund does not allow for FQHC's to use this funding for land acquisition.

House Bill 43 will provide much-needed flexibility and certainty for FQHCs like GBMS to access public funds for land acquisition, enabling them to secure property in areas where they can build new health centers. Specifically, for GBMS House Bill 43's enactment will maintain the financial viability for their proposed Capitol Heights facility.

I humbly urge the Appropriations Committee to give this bill a favorable report and support its passage, as it will make a significant difference in FQHC's ability to provide high quality healthcare to Maryland's most vulnerable populations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jarryd Hawkins  
Lobbyist  
High Street Strategies  
jhawkins@highstreetstrat.com