

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

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.

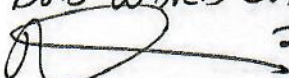
Many of us have worked there, were born there, were treated there, and seen our loved ones die there.

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

BOB WARD COMPANIES
 2-29-20

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HAVRE DE GRACE, MD