

Dear Chairwoman Pendergrass and Members of HGO:

Harford Memorial Hospital has been at the heart of our city, providing good healthcare to surrounding communities for many years. It is still a viable hospital that is in need of an injection of adrenalin . I spent my entire childhood watching my father and many dedicated health care professionals provide top notch healthcare to all people, free of discrimination. It was a thriving hospital that provided comprehensive care . I myself was born there, gave birth there ,was an active surgeon on staff there and held the hands of friend and relatives as they were treated there.

The un-intended 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 critical healthcare services and jobs.

I am asking that you please give your utmost consideration to HB 926, HB1277, and HB1571 as companion legislation to address the past, present and future of Harford Memorial Hospital in the City of Havre de Grace.

HB 926 – Health care Facility Closure (Public Notification)

HB 1277 – Harford Memorial Economic Impact Study

HB 1571 – Hospital Employee Retraining and Placement

I we respectfully request your favorable report on HB's 926, HB 1277 and HB 1571, to help our community over- come this situation.

Sincerely,

Elaine Hirsch, DPM