



OPPOSE: House Bill 1277: University of Maryland – Harford Memorial Hospital Closure – Economic Impact Study

Dear Honorable Maryland House of Delegates Health & Government Operations Committee Members,

As the premier business advocate in Harford County, the Harford County Chamber of Commerce opposes **House Bill 1277** as written.

While the Harford County Chamber of Commerce agrees with the necessity of a study centered around the impacts of the Harford Memorial Hospital closure on small business, we do not agree with the necessity of the study to include employment impact. The Maryland Health Care Commission requires Harford Memorial Hospital/University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health to provide an employment transition plan.

Additionally, the Harford County Chamber of Commerce disagrees with the legislation requiring a revitalization plan. A revitalization plan should be conducted between the City of Havre de Grace and the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. This plan should incorporate the Cushman & Wakefield analysis which reviewed a wide range of future development strategies.

University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health has demonstrated a long history of being an excellent community steward. Relevant to the Harford Memorial closing, this stewardship has been demonstrated in the Public Information Sessions where an outlined goal for the Harford Memorial property included “development options must bring sustainable community benefits and make good business sense.”

For these reasons, the Harford County Chamber of Commerce opposes **House Bill 1277** and respectfully requests an unfavorable committee report. If the above mentioned amendments were made to HB 1277, we would support the bill.

Sincerely,

Angela Rose

President & CEO

Harford County Chamber of Commerce

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