



March 21, 2023

Honorable Ben Barnes  
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee  
121 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Honorable Mark Chang  
Vice Chairman, House Appropriations Committee  
121 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

Hospice of Chesapeake (HOC) wholeheartedly supports the passage of **HB 1298 - Prior Authorization of State Debt - Alterations** which proposes to extend termination dates to certain grantees who received prior grant authorizations from the Legislature.

As outlined within HB 1298, Chapter 27 of the Acts of 2016 supports an extension for capital improvements for the Hospice House in Charles County (HOCC) run by the Hospice of Chesapeake.

I attest that the improvements are necessary and valuable to all Charles County residents. As the leading hospice and supportive care provider in the county, it is crucial that facilities are well-maintained for state-of-the-art care, safety, and comfort of our patients, their families, and caregivers, as well as HOCC staff and visitors.

The bond was originally approved in the 2016 legislative session in the amount of \$150,000.00 to be used over seven (7) years (on or before June 1, 2023) under the previous ownership of Hospice of Charles County. Although funding was approved, no further action was taken by the previous owner.

Hospice of the Chesapeake (HOC), Inc. acquired Hospice of Charles County, taking over full-time operations in October 2020. At the time of the acquisition, we were unaware of the bond money still available for Hospice of Charles County. It was only when we received notice from Executive Secretary John Gontrum that the seven-year funding period would expire on June 1, 2023, that we learned about the bond approval originally requested by the previous owner and the parameters for using the valuable funding. Without an extension, the approved funding will never be realized as a benefit to the Charles County community, as originally intended by its approval.

With an approved extension Hospice of Chesapeake/Charles will be able to use the funds as intended to benefit the residents of Charles County for improved access to quality end-of-life care for patients, family members, and caregivers, as well as integral bereavement counseling for those who have lost a loved one.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration and approval of HB 1298.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Brady".

Michael J. Brady  
President and Chief Executive Officer