



CORRESPONDENCE

March 6, 2023

REF: In support of SB 874

Good day

There are 1400 federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) in the U.S. that serve more than 27 million Americans. FQHCs have proven to be a vital asset for the delivery of health and wellness services to the medically underserved of our nation and the communities of Maryland. Established in 1972 in Northwest Baltimore City, Park West Health System (PWHS) was among the first FQHC models established for what is now conduits to ensure equal access to quality health care services regardless of an individual's or family's ability to pay or insurance status.

PWHS provides comprehensive primary health, dental, mental, and behavioral health services. Its location at 3319 Belvedere Avenue is the anchor of its 3 locations in the provision of services but is house in a building that was constructed in 1950 but was not constructed as a health center. The building is not up to today's building codes and standards and has inhibited the organization's ability to serve the constituents in the PWHS service area more comprehensively.

PWHS is working to rectify this with a 15,245 sf addition and the 10,710 sf renovation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors of Park West Belvedere. Scheduled to break ground in the summer 2023, the Park West Health System Capital Expansion Project would not have gotten off the ground if it wasn't for the programs like BRNI and the Capital Grant program which enabled the funding and support to procure professional services such as legal, architectural, and structural to ensure the building's transformation.

We support SB 874 and appreciate that this funding has made it to its intended.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrice Wallace", is written over the word "Respectfully,". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Patrice Wallace  
Project Manager and Grant Writer  
For Park West Health System Capital Expansion Project

A large, faded version of the WallaceBlack Communications logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the page, serving as a watermark. It consists of the same circular icon and text as the logo in the top left corner.

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