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CORPORATE OFFICE

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Senate budget and Tax Committee
SB0493 - Commission to Study Trauma Center Funding in Maryland

Position: Favorable

March 9, 2023

- Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the committee, for your time and support of University of Maryland Capital Region Health and the ongoing transformation of health care delivery in Prince George's County and the Southern Maryland Region.
- Today, I am here to discuss the need for funding to cover unreimbursed costs for Trauma programs in the state and in particular, at Capital Region Health. We see just under 3,000 trauma cases per year and we have a 95.5% survival rate. We are one of four Level II trauma centers in the state, the only trauma center in Prince George's County and the 2nd busiest in the state, second only to The University and Maryland Medical System's Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore.
- The trauma cases that we see at Cap Region have a very high severity. The number of blunt force and penetrating wounds, like car accidents and gunshot wounds, is twice that of the national average rate for these types of injuries. This high severity level has an impact on the clinical and financial resources expended to operate our trauma center as well as the acuity level of trauma patients admitted to our hospital following treatment by our trauma team.

- Trauma centers are required to maintain an availability of trauma, orthopedic and neuro surgeons, critical care physicians and anesthesiologists around the clock to be prepared for a trauma case at any time. Maintaining this availability is very costly due to fees paid for on-call and standby provider coverage to meet the requirements above.
- All of the factors above result in UM Capital incurring nearly \$13 million in unreimbursed trauma program costs annually. Trauma services are a critical need in any community but not all hospitals provide these services. For those hospitals that do, like UM Capital Region, this is a significant financial burden particularly given the rising costs of physicians and nurses post pandemic. The increasing cost of providing trauma services, together with the financial and operational challenges currently faced by all hospitals makes the need for increased financial resources to fund trauma programs critical for financial sustainability.

UM Capital remains committed to being good stewards of the State's investment in the transformation of healthcare in Prince George's County. On behalf of our 2000 plus member workforce and the patients we care for, I thank you for your time and your support for this critical funding.

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