



Date: March 11, 2025
To: Chairman Barnes, Vice Chairman Chang and Appropriations Committee Members
Reference: House Bill 1519 - Prior Authorization State Debt - Alterations
Position: Support with Amendments – Sinai Hospital of Baltimore – Community Primary and Specialty Care Complex-22-2017 1(3) ZA00 (U), 14 2019 1(3) ZA00(BB) and 63 2021 1(3) ZA00(AP).

Dear Chair Barnes and Committee Members,

On behalf of LifeBridge Health, we appreciate the opportunity to provide information on the prior authorization amendments requested for the Sinai Hospital of Baltimore – Community Primary and Specialty Care Complex. Sinai Hospital of Baltimore received three separate funding allocations from previously allocated capital bond bills for the above community care complex project. The project was delayed due to the development considerations related to the Pimlico Racetrack Redevelopment Plan. The project initially scheduled to be built on property that LifeBridge Health owns that is adjacent to the current racetrack. With the ongoing redevelopment considerations, the Maryland Jockey Club, Maryland Racetrack Operating Authority, and the City of Baltimore requested LifeBridge Health to hold off any building on that site as it was contemplating the use of that property for parking and other development options for the racetrack and out-parcels.

Due to the urgent nature of the need for this building, LifeBridge Health identified a new permanent location that would not impede on the redevelopment of racetrack and ideal location for our patients to access. The new site: however, required a new city permit and additional costs due to the location. During the permitting process, we informed that we had a new set of requirements issued by the City of Baltimore relating to permitting and zoning that includes a parking garage structure to be built before the actual care complex building on the Sinai Campus. We will need to construct a 400-space parking garage to satisfy both the parking requirements for our new medical office building to replace existing surface parking that serves the Mirowski office building that will no longer available. This requirement must be met prior to the community cares complex construction per the city.

This was not known until the fall of 2024. The sitework permit for the garage has been secured and the construction contract has been awarded. Construction will begin later this spring of 2025 with an estimated completion date of May 2026. Once the garage is in service, construction of the new medical office building will commence. **We are seeking extensions on the above appropriations and the ability to use funding for both parking garage and building structure costs with our required match.** We appreciate the due diligence the Legislature and State take to ensure all investment approved are used for their intended purposes. The Community Care Center is a critical service for the communities we serve. We ask the committee for a favorable report on HB1519 with the inclusion of submitted amendments for prior grants in Chapter 9, House Bill 101, Acts of 2019; Chapter 22, House Bill 151 2017 and Chapter 63, House Bill 590, Acts of 2021.

Jennifer Witten, M.B.A. Vice President, Government Relations & Community Development

jwitten2@lifebridgedhealth.org

Delora Sanchez Ifekauche, Esq. Principal & Director | Government Affairs difekauche@cgagroup.com

CARE BRAVELY