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Appropriations Committee
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Written Testimony for HB 1540 – University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center –
Funding – Repeal of Termination Date

Good afternoon, Chair Guzzmone, Vice-chair Rosapepe, and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee.

For the record, I am Delegate Andrea Fletcher Harrison, and I am here to present HB 1540, University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center – Funding – Repeal of Termination Date. This bill is straightforward but critically important: it repeals the termination date on existing law that requires the Governor to include a dedicated appropriation in the annual budget bill for the University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center.

Current law reflects a clear policy choice by this body: to protect the State's substantial investment in the Prince George's County Regional Medical Center and to ensure that high-quality clinical programs are developed and maintained as the system transitions into the University of Maryland Medical System. The statute recognizes that the financial viability of the Center—and the State's investment—depends on predictable State operating and capital funding in specific years, and that those commitments are directly tied to access to care and the long-term stability of this regional anchor institution.

HB 1540 preserves that commitment by removing the sunset that would otherwise end the mandated annual operating support in fiscal 2028. Under existing law, beginning in fiscal year 2022 and for each fiscal year through 2028, the Governor is required to include 10 million dollars in the budget bill as an operating grant for the Center. HB 1540 amends Health – General § 19–2401 so that, for fiscal year 2022 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor must continue to include that 10-million-dollar appropriation. This provides long-term stability for the hospital, its workforce, and the communities it serves.

The bill does not change the purposes for which State and county funds may be used. Those funds must continue to support the transition of Prince George's County Regional Medical Center into the University of Maryland Medical System and may only be used to

increase access to critical health care services, improve the quality of care, and facilitate cost containment measures that prevent additional operating losses. The underlying statute also continues to require Prince George's County's significant capital commitment—208 million dollars—for construction of the facility, with the State matching those capital funds as previously enacted. HB 1540 respects and reinforces that shared State–county partnership.

For Prince George's County and the broader region, the Capital Region Medical Center is more than a building; it is the backbone of our local health care system. It is a trauma resource, a major employer, and a key component of our efforts to address longstanding health inequities in majority–Black communities that have historically faced higher rates of chronic disease, maternal mortality, and barriers to specialty care. Ensuring predictable, ongoing State support helps maintain high–quality clinical programs, recruit and retain top medical staff, and sustain the services our residents depend on—from emergency care to specialty services.

This bill does not expand the amount of mandated funding beyond what is already in law; it simply prevents that mandate from expiring in 2028. Without HB 1540, the State's operating support would phase out on a fixed date regardless of actual conditions on the ground—patient volume, financial performance, or regional health needs. With HB 1540, the General Assembly keeps faith with its original intent: to protect the State's investment and ensure that the Center remains financially viable as a flagship institution in Prince George's County and the region.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 1540 so that we can safeguard the State's investment, uphold our commitment to Prince George's County, and ensure continued access to high–quality health care for the residents of the Capital Region. Thank you for your consideration, and I am happy to answer any questions.