

**HB 1540\_Delegate Harrison\_FAV.pdf**

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ANDREA FLETCHER HARRISON  
*Legislative District 24*  
Prince George's County

Appropriations Committee  
Vice Chair, Racing and Sports  
Facilities Subcommittee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

April 1, 2026

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.

**HB 1540 - FAV - UMMS (Senate Hearing).pdf**

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**To:** Chair Guy Guzzone and Members, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

**From:** Kristin J. Bryce  
SVP & Chief External Affairs Officer  
University of Maryland Medical System

**Date:** April 1, 2026

**Re:** House Bill 1540 – University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center –  
Funding – Repeal of Termination Date

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The University of Maryland Capital Regional Health and the University of Maryland Medical System submit this letter in strong support for House Bill 1540 – University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center – Funding – Repeal of Termination Date. House Bill 1540 (“HB 1540”) will extend the \$10 million operating grant for the University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center, which is currently scheduled to sunset after FY 2028, and enable UM Capital Region Medical Center to continue to deliver critical and complex health care to Prince Georgians and residents of the Southern Maryland region.

### **Background**

On September 1, 2017, the last County-owned hospital care delivery system in the State merged into the University of Maryland Medical System (“UMMS”) and became University of Maryland Capital Region Health (“UM Capital Region”). This marked a major milestone in a historic public-private partnership among the State, Prince George’s County, and UMMS to make significant investment in the health and wellbeing of a County of nearly one million residents.

Historically, residents of Prince George’s County lacked access to critical health care services and experienced significant health disparities in comparison to surrounding counties and the State. Over 60 percent of County residents who required hospitalization received that care outside of Prince George’s, and the County had a resident to physician ratio that was double the State average. Prince Georgians also suffered from higher rates of chronic disease and higher rates of death from heart disease and cancer than residents of neighboring jurisdictions. Similarly, African American residents within the County suffered from higher rates of chronic disease and death than that of other minority and white residents.

As part of the public-private partnership, and in order to address the significant health disparities present in the County, the General Assembly established an operating grant for UM Capital Region to (1) increase critical health care services for Prince George’s County and the Southern Maryland Region, and (2) prevent additional operating losses for UM Capital Region Medical Center. The operating grant was initially authorized for 10 years, and is currently set to expire in

FY2028. HB 1540 would remove the sunset provision for the operating grant and enable UM Capital Region to continue to deliver critical, complex care and grow access to primary care in the County.

### **Clinical Investments**

Since 2017, the State operating grant has helped enable UM Cap Region to establish and expand clinical programs in cancer care, neuroscience, cardiac care, orthopedics, urogynecology and other specialty areas, addressing long-standing access to care issues. These programs are focused on keeping care close to home, improving health outcomes, and meeting the most pressing needs of the community. Clinical investments stemming from the State operating grant include:

- **Cardiac Care.** UM Capital Region offers comprehensive heart care services for the community, including life-saving emergency treatment, advanced procedures, and ongoing heart health management. These services help patients receive timely, high-quality cardiac care without leaving the County. Since 2017, the total number of open-heart surgeries performed each year has grown from 30 to 180. In 2025, UM Capital Region was recognized by US News & World Report as a “high performing” hospital for heart attack and heart failure.
- **Cancer Care.** Cancer services are together under one coordinated program at the Largo campus, which reduces the need for patients to travel between multiple locations. For the most common cancers in the county – such as breast, lung, colorectal, and thoracic – Prince Georgians can access chemotherapy, radiation, and surgical care in one location close to home.
- **Primary Care.** Primary care is often the first point of contact for patients and a critical gateway to preventive care and chronic disease management. In 2025, primary care practices supported more than 18,500 patient visits, helping residents stay healthier and connected to care.
- **Brain and Stroke Care.** UM Capital Region has significantly expanded stroke and neurological services, allowing patients to receive specialized care quickly when every minute matters. These investments also support treatment for other brain and spine conditions, helping patients recover and maintain quality of life. The stroke program was recently ranked #1 in the State by Healthgrades, and among the top 10 percent of all hospitals nationwide.
- **Vascular Care.** Expanded vascular services provide increased screening and advanced treatment options for patients with complex vascular conditions, improving early detection and outcomes.
- **Maternal and High-Risk Pregnancy Care.** The medical center has expanded maternal fetal medicine (MFM) services and providers in Prince George’s County. Since opening the Largo campus, the number of babies born at UM Capital Region has more than doubled (from ~1,200 to more than 2,400 per year). A hospital the size of the UM Capital Region in Largo (228 acute care beds) would typically provide only basic OB/GYN services and transfer or refer specialty and higher-risk services, however, the medical center has been able to maintain and expand maternal fetal medicine services. Service efforts are focused on reducing fetal mortality rates and supports the only level III neonatal intensive care unit in the County.
- **Emergency Orthopedic Care.** As part of the Level II Trauma program, UM Capital Region provides emergency orthopedic care for patients with serious injuries. The

medical center supports a dedicated orthopedic team to ensure timely, high-quality care for trauma patients.

- **Women’s Health (Urogynecology).** By investing in specialized OB/GYN care, UM Capital Region allows women to receive advanced urogynecological health services locally rather than being referred elsewhere. This has resulted in more than 2,300 patient visits in the past year, keeping care accessible within the community.
- **MommaBaby Bus.** UM Capital Region supports a mobile MommaBaby Bus that brings prenatal screenings, education, and referrals directly into neighborhoods inside the Route 495 beltway. This program helps reach mothers who may otherwise delay care, improving outcomes for both mothers and babies.
- **Robotic Surgery.** Investments in robotic surgery technology allow patients to benefit from less invasive procedures, reduced blood loss, faster recovery, and a quicker return to daily activities—often with shorter hospital stays.

These programs have helped establish UM Cap Region as a market leader in specialty care for Prince George’s County residents. UM Capital Region is now recognized as a national healthcare leader, and is the recipient of the following awards and designations:

- Rated as “high performing” by U.S. News & World Report in five areas: diabetes, heart attack, hip fracture, heart failure, and stroke.
- Consistently ranked in the top 10 percent of hospitals nationwide for excellence in cardiac surgery by the Society of Thoracic Surgeons.
- Accredited in Vascular Testing by the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission.
- Received “Full Plus Recognition” from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to prevent or delay type-2 diabetes, a designation reserved for programs delivering high-quality, evidence-based support.
- The American Association of Critical-Care Nurses Silver Beacon Award for Excellence in clinical care in the NICU.
- Received American Heart Association’s highest honor for commitment to quality stroke care.
- Center of Distinction for Wound Care Center seven years straight. Has a 94 percent healing rate.

### **UM Capital Region’s “First and Only’s”**

For many complex areas of care, UM Capital Region is the first provider in the County to offer these services, the only provider in the county to provide these services, or both. The list of services for which UM Capital Region is the “first and only” in the County includes:

- Only Trauma Center – Level II (even with many Level I registrations)
- Only Adult Sickle Cell Clinic and Infusion Center
- Only Cardiac Surgery Program
- Only Electrophysiology Lab
- Only Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)
- Only Comprehensive Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center (and Only Hospital-Based Rape Crisis Center in the State)
- Only Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program
- Only Family Medicine Residency Program

- Only Hospital-Based Maternal and Fetal Medicine Program
- Only Mama Baby Bus Program, focused on “inside the beltway”

### **Why is the grant still needed?**

UM Capital Region is delivering on its charge to address health inequity in Prince George’s County and the health disparities that inequity has created. Though financial challenges continue. Despite exceeding the originally envisioned goal for performance improvement, **UM Capital Region/UMMS has incurred \$200 million in financial losses since 2017**. Under a global budget model, hospitals are disincentivized to increase the number of patients they serve or volume of care they provide; however, in a jurisdiction that has been underserved for decades, such as Prince George’s County, significant increases in volume are not only expected, but a strong indicator that historic trends are reversing and Prince Georgians are more commonly staying within the County to receive hospital care.

For all of these reasons, the State operating grant remains essential to fulfilling the mission of transforming health care in Prince George’s County. The health system that grew out of the historic partnership between the State, County and UMMS more than a decade ago has made unprecedented progress toward realizing the vision of more equitable and accessible high quality health care in Prince George’s County. The State operating grant is critical to the collective efforts to continue this progress, and continue providing higher complexity of care in Prince George’s County.

For these reasons, the UM Capital Regional Health and UMMS support HB 1540, and respectfully request a *favorable* report on the bill.

For more information, please contact:  
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