

Elected Officials

JOHN P. SARBANES
3RD DISTRICT, MARYLAND

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

2444 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4015
FAX: (202) 225-9219

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2003
www.sarbanes.house.gov

December 8, 2014

Mr. Ben Steffen
Executive Director
Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215-2254

Dear Director Steffen:

I am writing to offer my support for the Certificate of Need Application submitted by Anne Arundel Medical Center (AAMC) to the Maryland Health Care Commission. Their proposal will establish a new cardiac surgery program which will expand upon the extensive cardiac care already provided by AAMC.

AAMC has a long history of providing great care and consistently achieves high marks for quality and patient satisfaction, including recognition for its existing cardiac services. AAMC will be able to expand upon its established cardiac expertise to provide a more complete treatment experience for patients. This program would increase access to an important service, improve population health, and lower costs.

The Marylander's served by AAMC lack adequate access to a cardiac surgery program despite higher rates of heart disease and death due to heart disease. Anne Arundel County is currently the only populous county without such a program. Additionally, growing populations along the eastern shore, which are served by AAMC, also lack access to a program and further strains AAMC's other cardiac care services. Patients in need of care face significant distances and drive times away from their community, including several hundred patients that are currently served by AAMC. The distances traveled and record transfers inhibit key care coordination activities necessary to effectively manage cardiac services.

I support the application of Anne Arundel Medical Center to the Maryland Health Care Commission and ask that you give all appropriate consideration to this proposal.

Sincerely,



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress

600 BALTIMORE AVENUE
SUITE 303
TOWSON, MD 21204
(410) 832-8890
FAX: (410) 832-8898

44 CALVERT STREET
SUITE 349
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401
(410) 295-1679
FAX: (410) 295-1682

3901 NATIONAL DRIVE
SUITE 220
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FAX: (301) 421-4079

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER



THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE HOUSE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

January 7, 2015

Kevin R. McDonald, Chief
Certificate of Need
Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Ave
Baltimore, MD 21215-2299

**Subject: Letter of Support – Anne Arundel Medical Center’s Certificate of Need (CON)
Application for Cardiac Surgery Services**

Dear Mr. McDonald:

Anne Arundel Medical Center (AAMC) recently submitted a letter to the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) announcing its intent to apply for a Certificate of Need (CON) to perform cardiac surgery services for the citizens of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding region. We strongly endorse the hospital’s forthcoming application.

AAMC is Maryland’s third busiest hospital with respect to patient volume and is an integral component of the County’s healthcare delivery system. AAMC has an exemplary reputation for providing high quality clinical programs and is nationally recognized for joint replacement surgery, cancer care and women’s health services. AAMC has also garnered a reputation as a center of excellence in cardiology and vascular services, providing cardiac services that range from prevention and diagnosis to interventional catheterization, angioplasty, electrophysiology and comprehensive rehabilitation services.

Given AAMC’s proven track record for developing and operating high quality clinical programs, as well as the need for cardiac surgery services in our region, the hospital has teamed with Johns Hopkins Medicine to create a cardiac surgery research and training program at its Medical Park Campus. Anne Arundel County is Maryland’s largest jurisdiction without a cardiac surgery program domiciled within its borders. Last year, 500 Anne Arundel County residents were forced to leave the County to obtain cardiac surgeries, which disrupted care and caused

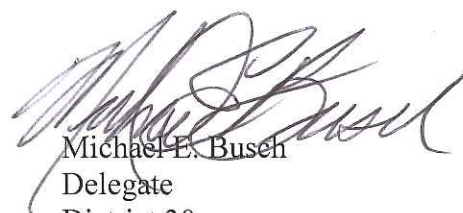
hardships for both patients and family members. Two hundred patients were forced to leave the AAMC's care and travel outside the County for cardiac surgery.

Many of our constituents have recognized the lack of a cardiac surgery program at AAMC as a gap in the continuum of care for residents in our region, particularly in light of the aging population in Anne Arundel County with high rates of cardiovascular disease. Over the course of several years, we have discussed this issue with many interested stakeholders and the leadership of AAMC. We believe that approval of a cardiac surgery CON is warranted in order to improve the healthcare delivery system in both the County and the State. Thank you for the opportunity to provide formal comment on this impending application.

Sincerely,



John C. Astle
Senator
District 30
Anne Arundel County



Michael E. Busch
Delegate
District 30
Anne Arundel County

EDWARD R. REILLY
33rd Legislative District
Anne Arundel County

Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 321
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3568 · 301-858-3568
800-492-7122 Ext. 3568
Fax 410-841-3067
Edward.Reilly@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

December 15, 2014

Kevin R. McDonald, Chief
Certificate of Need
Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21215-2299

SUBJECT: Letter of Support – Anne Arundel Medical Center’s Certificate of Need
Application for Cardiac Surgery Services

Dear Mr. McDonald:

I am writing to offer my strong support for the Certificate of Need application submitted by Anne Arundel Medical Center (AAMC) to establish a cardiac surgery program. The community needs and deserves a local cardiac surgical program that complements the existing, high-quality services and facilities that AAMC has developed over the years.

Last year I had the opportunity to tour the CATH Lab and was impressed by the high quality of medical care and investment in the program. I would certainly like to see them continue on the road to providing these critical service within the community and further the services by establishing a cardiac surgery program.

Anne Arundel Medical Center is my hospital of choice. A cardiac surgery program at AAMC would create a more seamless experience for patients who need this level of care, and alleviate the burden of having to travel to another hospital after care has already been started at AAMC. A heart surgery program at AAMC would improve the quality and access of healthcare available in my community.

I understand appreciate that the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) must approve hospitals in Maryland that seek to provide cardiac surgery services. I full support this project and hope the MHCC will see the value and benefit of AAMC’s application to provide this critical service in my community.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward Reilly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" and "Y".

Edward R. Reilly
State Senator
District 33, Anne Arundel County

cc: Anne Arundel Medical Center



County Executive Steven R. Schuh
P.O. Box 2700, Annapolis, MD 21404
(410) 222-1821

December 15, 2014

Mr. Kevin McDonald, Chief
Certificate of Need Division
Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Dear Mr. McDonald:

I am writing to support Anne Arundel Medical Center's (AAMC) Certificate of Need for Cardiac Surgery Services.

Anne Arundel Medical Center, headquartered in Annapolis, MD, has been an integral part of our community for well-over a century. As you may be aware, AAMC is nationally recognized for joint replacement, emergency heart attack response and cancer care. I believe that a department of cardiac surgery would advance AAMC's mission to enhance the health of the people they serve.

I strongly support AAMC's efforts to provide these critical cardiac services for the one million residents it serves. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Steven R. Schuh
County Executive



Chartered 1708

Michael Pantelides, Mayor
160 Duke of Gloucester Street
Annapolis, MD 21401-2517

December 15, 2014

Kevin R. McDonald, Chief
Certificate of Need
Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Ave
Baltimore, MD 21215-2299

Subject: Anne Arundel Medical Center's Certificate of Need Application for Cardiac Surgery Services - Letter of Support

Dear Mr. McDonald:

As Mayor of the City of Annapolis, I am writing in support of Anne Arundel Medical Center's (AAMC) Certificate of Need application to establish a Cardiac Surgery Program at its Medical Park campus. A resident of Annapolis along with my family my entire life, I am well-aware of AAMC's longstanding support of this community, and its abiding commitment to the people of this area. I also am aware that AAMC has demonstrated an interest in establishing a cardiac surgery program to complement its existing services to meet the needs of the community for many, many years

Recently, I learned that nearly half of all patients AAMC serves for cardiac surgery must travel outside of Maryland to Washington, DC or to Baltimore for this service. Annapolis and Anne Arundel County serve a growing number of citizens age 55 and older, the age at which cardiac care becomes very critical. In an era when health care needs to become more accessible to people - and less fragmented - it seems only logical and even more important to grant AAMC permission to provide a full cardiac program.

Based upon its demonstrated success in developing other high-quality programs, its centralized location, the number of patients it serves, and the inevitable cost-savings of caring for patients in this setting, AAMC is to be commended for its wisdom in seeking this CON.

I encourage the Commission to regard AAMC's application favorably, and to award it permission to develop this program as soon as possible.

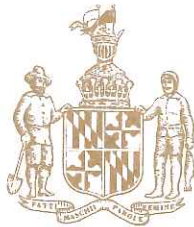
Sincerely,

Michael Pantelides

Michael Pantelides
Mayor

CATHLEEN M. VITALE
Legislative District 33A
Anne Arundel County

Environmental Matters
Committee



Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 154
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3510 · 301-858-3510
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Cathy.Vitale@house.state.md.us

Home Office
410-544-4937

The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 7, 2015

Kevin R. McDonald, Chief
Certificate of Need
Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Ave
Baltimore, MD 21215-2299

**Subject: Letter of Support- Anne Arundel Medical Center's Certificate of Need
Application for Cardiac Surgery Services**

Dear Mr. McDonald:

I am writing to offer my strong support for the Certificate of Need application submitted by Anne Arundel Medical Center (AAMC) to establish a cardiac surgery program. The community needs and deserves a local cardiac surgical program that complements the existing, high-quality services and facilities that AAMC has developed over the years.

Anne Arundel Medical Center is my hospital of choice. A cardiac surgery program at AAMC would create a more seamless experience for patients who need this level of care, and alleviate the burden of having to travel to another hospital after care has already been started at AAMC. A heart surgery program at AAMC would improve the quality and access of healthcare available in my community.

I understand and appreciate that the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) must approve hospitals in Maryland that seek to provide cardiac surgery services. I fully support this project, and hope the MHCC will see the value and benefit of AAMC's application to provide this critical service in my community.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cathy Vitale".

Cathleen M. Vitale

cc: Anne Arundel Medical Center

STEVEN J. ARENTZ
36th Legislative District
Kent, Queen Anne's,
Cecil, and Caroline Counties



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 308
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
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Steven.Arentz@house.state.md.us

The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

December 19, 2014

Kevin R. McDonald, Chief
Certificate of Need
Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Ave
Baltimore, MD 21215-2299

**Subject: Letter of Support – Anne Arundel Medical Center's Certificate of Need
Application for Cardiac Surgery Services**

Dear Mr. McDonald,

As a Delegate from Maryland's 36th Legislative District, representing Kent, Queen Anne's Cecil and Caroline Counties, I wish to convey my strongest support for Anne Arundel Medical Center (AAMC) in its application for a Certificate of Need for a cardiac surgery program. The counties I represent are well-served by AAMC and its residents are accustomed to the high quality, clinical programs AAMC offers. These communities need and deserve a local cardiac surgical program which AAMC is well-positioned to provide.

In fact, the absence of a program at AAMC is becoming a major healthcare access problem as more people move to the Eastern Shore. Since this population is typically older, a comprehensive cardiac program that is easily accessible becomes even more critical.

Recently, I learned of a scenario where an area resident was transported to AAMC, stabilized, and then taken to another hospital for heart surgery. Because the surgery could not be done at AAMC, the necessity of transporting him quickly to a cardiac hospital was paramount. I was told in his case minutes mattered, and his life was in peril during transport. This could have been avoided had the surgery been performed while he was already at AAMC.

Stories like this will continue unless we secure a cardiac surgery program to serve our upper shore counties. Over the years AAMC has been the hospital for me and my family, and I've been impressed each time with the quality of service and the professionalism of its staff. I understand AAMC intends to develop its cardiac surgery program in collaboration with Johns Hopkins Hospital. This further ensures that it will be a first-rate program for the people it will serve.

I urge the Maryland Health Care Commission to look favorably on this application, and to help provide this critical health care service for the citizens we both serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Arentz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Honorable Steven J. Arentz
Delegate, District 36

HERB McMILLAN
Legislative District 30
Anne Arundel County

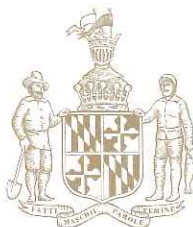
Environmental Matters Committee

Subcommittees

Housing and Real Property
Motor Vehicles and Transportation

Vice Chair

Anne Arundel County
House Delegation



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 164
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410-841-3211 · 301-858-3211
800-492-7122 Ext. 3211
Herb.McMillan@house.state.md.us

The Maryland House of Delegates

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Kevin R. McDonald, Chief
Certificate of Need
Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Ave
Baltimore, MD 21215-2299

January 15, 2015

Subject: Letter of Support- Anne Arundel Medical Center's Certificate of Need Application for Cardiac Surgery Services

Dear Mr. McDonald:

I strongly support the Certificate of Need application submitted by Anne Arundel Medical Center (AAMC) to establish a cardiac surgery program. The community wants, needs and deserves a local cardiac surgical program that complements the existing, high-quality services and facilities that AAMC has developed over the years.

Anne Arundel Medical Center is my hospital of choice. A cardiac surgery program at AAMC would create a more seamless experience for patients who need this level of care, and alleviate the burden of having to travel to another hospital after care has already been started at AAMC. Additionally a heart surgery program at AAMC would improve the quality and access of healthcare available not only in my community, but also in communities on the Eastern Shore and Central Maryland.

I understand and appreciate that the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) must approve hospitals in Maryland that seek to provide cardiac surgery services. I fully support this project, and hope the MHCC will see the value and benefit of AAMC's application to provide this critical service.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

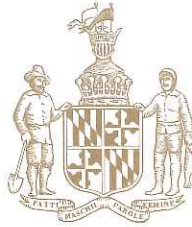
Warm regards,

Herb McMillan
District 30A, Annapolis

cc: Anne Arundel Medical Center

SID SAAB
Legislative District 33
Anne Arundel County

Health and Government Operations
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 157
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800-492-7122 Ext. 3551
Fax 410-841-3549 · 301-858-3549
Sid.Saab@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 4, 2015

Kevin R. McDonald, Chief
Certificate of Need
Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215-2299

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR ANNE ARUNDEL MEDICAL CENTER'S CERTIFICATE
OF NEED APPLICATION FOR CARDIAC SURGERY SERVICES

Dear Mr. McDonald:

I am pleased to offer my support for the Certificate of Need application submitted by Anne Arundel Medical Center (AAMC) to establish a cardiac surgery program. As a newly elected official representing the largest district in the county, I am advocating for the need for local, quality care not only for my constituents, but for those on the Eastern Shore as well.

AAMC is one of the busiest hospitals in Maryland, and offers a high quality of care. Because it is the hospital of choice for a large population, not being able to receive cardiac surgery services causes health concerns, time delays, hardships on family members and additional financial strain.

I realize the MHCC has a process to determine need, and trust that as you deliberate you will consider the importance of offering cardiac surgery services to this area of the state, that AAMC is equipped and ready to do so, and the health and well-being of many will benefit from such.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sid Saab", written over a white background.

Sid Saab

Cc: Anne Arundel Medical Center

SETH A. HOWARD
Legislative District 30B
Anne Arundel County

Economic Matters Committee

Subcommittees

Business Regulations

Consumer Protection
and Commercial Law

Unemployment Insurance



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 159
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3439 · 301-858-3439
800-492-7122 Ext. 3439
Fax 410-841-3256 · 301-858-3256
Seth.Howard@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 5, 2015

Kevin R. McDonald, Chief
Certificate of Need
Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Ave
Baltimore, MD 21215-2299

Subject: Letter of Support- Anne Arundel Medical Center's Certificate of Need Application for Cardiac Surgery Services

Dear Mr. McDonald:

I am writing to offer my strong support for the Certificate of Need application submitted by Anne Arundel Medical Center (AAMC) to establish a cardiac surgery program. The community needs and deserves a local cardiac surgical program that complements the existing, high-quality services and facilities that AAMC has developed over the years.

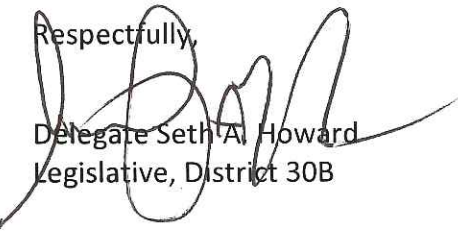
As a resident of Anne Arundel County, I am well aware of AAMC's longstanding interest and commitment to establish a cardiac surgery program to complement its existing quality heart and vascular services, and to meet the needs of the community. The hospital already has a highly regarded cardiac program and it seems only logical to allow AAMC to include a remaining piece of this program - cardiac surgery. Given the outstanding reputation of AAMC and its isolation from existing cardiac surgery programs, I urge the Maryland Health Care Commission to approve AAMC's application to provide this critical service in the community.

Anne Arundel Medical Center is my hospital of choice. A cardiac surgery program at AAMC would create a more seamless experience for patients who need this level of care, and alleviate the burden of having to travel to another hospital after care has already been started at AAMC. A heart surgery program at AAMC would improve the quality and access of healthcare available in my community.

I understand and appreciate that the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) must approve hospitals in Maryland that seek to provide cardiac surgery services. I fully support this project, and hope the MHCC will see the value and benefit of AAMC's application to provide this critical service in my community.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Respectfully,


Delegate Seth A. Howard
Legislative, District 30B

cc: Anne Arundel Medical Center

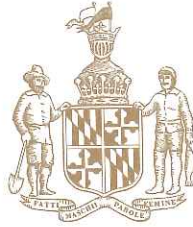
TONY McCONKEY
Legislative District 33
Anne Arundel County

Appropriations Committee

Subcommittee

Public Safety and Administration

Oversight Committee on Personnel



The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 163
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Tony.McConkey@house.state.md.us

District Office
207 Cypress Creek Road
Severna Park, Maryland 21146
410-544-6424 · Fax 410-544-0418

February 6, 2015

Kevin R. McDonald, Chief
Certificate of Need
Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215-2299

Subject: Letter of Support – Anne Arundel Medical Center’s Certificate of Need
Application for Cardiac Surgery Services

Dear Mr. McDonald,

I am writing to offer my strong support for the Certificate of Need application submitted by Anne Arundel Medical Center (AAMC) to establish a cardiac surgery program. The community needs and deserves a local cardiac surgical program that complements the existing, high-quality services and facilities that AAMC has developed over the years.

Anne Arundel Medical Center is my hospital of choice. A cardiac surgery program at AAMC would create a more seamless experience for patients who need this level of care, and alleviate the burden of having to travel to another hospital after care has already been started at AAMC. A heart surgery program at AAMC would improve the quality and access of healthcare available in my community.

I understand and appreciate that the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) must approve Hospitals in Maryland that seek to provide cardiac surgery services. I fully support this project, and hope the MHCC will see the value and benefit of AAMC’s application to provide this critical service in my community.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony McConkey', written over a horizontal line.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 2015, Legislative Day No. 2

Resolution No. 7-15

Introduced by The Entire Council

By the County Council, January 20, 2015

1 RESOLUTION urging the Maryland Health Care Commission to support the
2 establishment of a cardiac surgery program in Anne Arundel County
3

4 WHEREAS, no hospital in Anne Arundel County has been issued a Certificate of
5 Need to offer cardiac surgery services for the citizens of the County and the
6 surrounding region; and
7

8 WHEREAS, Anne Arundel County is the State's largest jurisdiction that does not
9 have a cardiac surgery program within its borders, resulting in 500 Anne Arundel
10 County residents forced to leave the County for cardiac surgeries in 2014,
11 disrupting care and causing hardships for both patients and family members; and
12

13 WHEREAS, the lack of a cardiac surgery program at a hospital in Anne Arundel
14 County has been a significant impediment in providing a continuum of care for
15 residents of our region, particularly the growing senior citizen population in Anne
16 Arundel County; and
17

18 WHEREAS, the addition of a cardiac surgery program is an integral component
19 to the healthcare delivery system in Anne Arundel County and to combatting high
20 rates of cardiovascular disease in the County; now, therefore, be it
21

22 *Resolved by the County Council of Anne Arundel County, Maryland,* That it urges the
23 Maryland Health Care Commission to support the citizens of Anne Arundel County and
24 the surrounding region and calls on the Commission to support the establishment of a
25 cardiac surgery program in Anne Arundel County and, be it further
26

27 *Resolved,* That a copy of this resolution be sent to Kevin R. McDonald, Chief,
28 Maryland Health Care Commission, Victoria W. Bayless, President and CEO, Anne
29 Arundel Medical Center, Karen E. Olscamp - President and CEO, UM BWMC, and
30 County Executive Steven R. Schuh.
31

READ AND PASSED this 20th day of January, 2015

By Order:

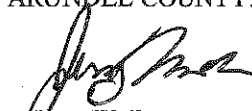


Elizabeth E. Jones
Administrative Officer

Resolution No. 7-15

Page No. 2

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT RESOLUTION NO. 7-15 IS TRUE AND CORRECT AND DULY ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY.



Jerry Walker
Chairman



THE HONORABLE ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.

Governor of Maryland, 2003 - 2007

U.S. House of Representatives, 1995 - 2003

Maryland House of Delegates 1987 - 1995

January 16, 2014

Kevin R. McDonald, Chief
Certificate of Need
Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21215-2299

**Subject: Letter of Support - Anne Arundel Medical Center's Certificate of Need
Application for Cardiac Surgery Services**

Dear Mr. McDonald:

As a resident of Annapolis (and neighbor to Anne Arundel Medical Center), I appreciate the opportunity to offer my support for Anne Arundel Medical Center's (AAMC) Certificate of Need application to establish a cardiac surgery program. I am well aware of AAMC's longstanding interest and commitment to establish a cardiac surgery program to complement its existing quality heart and vascular services and to meet the needs of this growing community.

As you know, AAMC is one of the busiest hospitals in Maryland. It's also located in Anne Arundel County, which is the largest county in the state without cardiac surgery. AAMC is the most isolated hospital in the state from an existing cardiac surgery program which means heart surgery patients have to endure significant travel time from home to receive surgical care. This is not only stressful for the patient, but also for family members who must travel back and forth to the hospital to be with their loved one.

The hospital already has a highly regarded cardiac program and it seems only logical to allow AAMC to include a remaining piece of this program – cardiac surgery. Given the outstanding reputation of AAMC, its isolation from existing cardiac surgery programs, and the community's tremendous philanthropic support for this program, I urge the Maryland Health Care Commission to approve AAMC's application to provide this critical service in the community.

Thank you for your consideration in this very important matter.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.

Cc: Anne Arundel Medical Center

January 16, 2015

Kevin R. McDonald, Chief
Certificate of Need
Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Ave
Baltimore, MD 21215-2299

**Subject: Letter of Support – Anne Arundel Medical Center’s Certificate of Need
Application for Cardiac Surgery Services**

Dear Mr. McDonald:

Recently, I learned that Anne Arundel Medical Center is applying for a Certificate of Need for a cardiac surgery program in Anne Arundel County. I was surprised to learn that Anne Arundel County is the largest county in Maryland with more than 500,000 residents without such a program

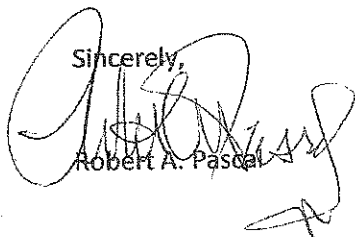
As a former Anne Arundel County Executive and member of the Maryland State Senate, I understand how important it is for area citizens to have ready access to high quality health care, especially in times of life-saving needs. I have been informed that some 500 county citizens are ambulated or helicoptered out of the county each year for cardiac surgery. Some 200 are transferred away from AAMC alone. From a patient perspective, we need to ask if this makes sense. If AAMC is fully capable of offering open heart surgery, why transfer a patient and disrupt treatment at such a critical time?

AAMC is one of Maryland’s fastest growing hospitals admitting more than 30,000 patients each year. Given its reputation for exemplary clinical programs, it’s easy to envision a top flight, comprehensive heart program. What makes this program even more attractive is AAMC’s partnership with Johns Hopkins, thereby ensuring this will be one of the best cardiac programs in Maryland.

As a resident of the Eastern Shore, I understand this program will serve upper shore residents as well. That’s all the more reason to support this program.

For all of these reasons, I urge the Maryland Health Care Commission to grant AAMC a Certificate of Need for cardiac surgery and to encourage its continued development with Johns Hopkins of this important program for our citizens.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Pascal