



THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 20
MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Ben Steffen
Executive Director
Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

March 5, 2021

Dear Executive Director Steffen:

The District 20 Delegation writes to express their support of the City of Takoma Park's letter shared with you on March 3rd, 2021.

The need for Adventist Healthcare to provide critical primary and behavioral health services to residents in and near Takoma Park were clearly demonstrated throughout the Certificate of Need process, and in the Maryland Health Care Commission Certificate of Need decision. After the Certificate of Need was approved, Adventist Healthcare removed the Behavioral Health unit, laboratory services, and other important health services, causing difficulty for our residents.

We share the city's concerns that reducing urgent care services in the Takoma Park area will exacerbate racial disparities given the high population of Black and Brown communities in the vicinity and will deny vital health services to the surrounding population. As the letter states, most of Takoma Park's residents of color live in the apartment buildings close to the Takoma Park campus, most within six blocks of the hospital building. Hispanic and Black residents in Takoma Park have been hit particularly hard by the pandemic, compared to their white neighbors.

We have met with and communicated with representatives of Adventist Healthcare multiple times regarding the health services in Takoma Park, advocating for solutions that would provide the primary and behavioral health care that is so needed. As a Delegation, we urge Adventist Healthcare to work with the City of Takoma Park to tailor its health services to the needs of the community.

We thank you for taking the time to consider our input on this important issue and are happy to discuss these matters further at your convenience.

Handwritten signature of Senator William Smith in black ink.

Senator William Smith

Handwritten signature of Delegate Lorig Charkoudian in black ink.

Delegate Lorig Charkoudian

Handwritten signature of Delegate David Moon in black ink.

Delegate David Moon

Handwritten signature of Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins in black ink.

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins