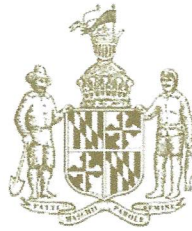


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Health and Government
Operations Committee



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Ways and Means Committee

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 34A
HARFORD COUNTY

Mr. Ben Steffen, Executive Director
Maryland Healthcare Commission
4160 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

April 15, 2020

Dear Mr. Steffen:

Thank you for taking the time to have a video chat with us yesterday. We appreciate the opportunity to express our concerns over the scheduled timing of this long pending application during the COVID-19 world health pandemic and economic crisis.

The depth of our conversation revealed gaps in communication and needed improvements in the application review process and public notification. We thank you for agreeing to address these issues with us during the interim, so we do not need to continue to file legislative remedies.

Our position on the matter has not changed and we continue to seek delay in action by the Commission, however our community at a minimum should have confidence that if the Commission grants approval of item # 5 then it should be conditioned that Harford Memorial Hospital remain open until a new facility is constructed, fully licensed and operational at the new site in Aberdeen.

We hope the Maryland Healthcare Commission will consider including binding language in your final order and be prepared to enforce it if necessary. As noted, resistance may emerge as similar language was introduced in 2016 to the Freestanding Medical facility legislation by Delegate Lisanti. Although it was passed on the floor of the House of Delegates, later the amendment was stripped by the Senate under pressure from various lobbying efforts. A copy of the referenced amendment is attached.

We look forward to working with you and your staff to ensure that the public is engaged in healthcare policy decisions and that access to quality healthcare is available in Harford County and to all people of Maryland

Handwritten signature of Steve Johnson in black ink.

Steve Johnson
Delegate, District 34A

Sincerely;

Handwritten signature of Mary Ann Lisanti in blue ink.

Mary Ann Lisanti
Delegate, District 34A

CC: MHCC Commissioners, Attachments: 1

HB1350/793828/1

BY: Delegates Lisanti and Hornberger

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 1350, AS AMENDED

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1 of the Health and Government Operations Committee Amendments (HB1350/396582/2), in line 8 of Amendment No. 1, after “date:” insert “prohibiting a certain hospital from closing before the later of a certain date or a certain conversion is completed;”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2 of the Health and Government Operations Committee Amendments, in line 4 of Amendment No. 2, after “2020.” insert:

“(IV) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, A LICENSED GENERAL HOSPITAL IN HARFORD COUNTY MAY NOT CLOSE BEFORE THE LATER OF:

1. OCTOBER 1, 2017; OR
2. THE CONVERSION TO A FREESTANDING MEDICAL FACILITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH IS COMPLETE.”.

On page 2 of the Health and Government Operations Committee Amendments, in line 15 of Amendment No. 3, strike “and” and substitute:

“(6) the Chief Executive Officer of Harford Memorial Hospital, or the Chief Executive Officer’s designee;

(Over)

(7) the Chief Executive Officer of Union Hospital, or the Chief Executive Officer's designee; and".

On page 3 of the Health and Government Operations Committee Amendments, in line 1, of Amendment No. 3, strike "(6)" and substitute "(8)".