



BARRY GLASSMAN

HARFORD COUNTY EXECUTIVE

April 16, 2020

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

RE: UM Upper Chesapeake Health's Projects

Dear Mr. Steffen,

While I recognize that it is an extremely turbulent time during this unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, I am writing to you in support of UM Upper Chesapeake Health's (UM UCH) three projects scheduled to come before the Maryland Health Care Commissioners (MHCC) meeting on April 16th; and compel the Commissioners to act on the projects as planned.

As I have submitted letters of support to you in the past, UM UCH's plans have been well thought out and represent a thorough, comprehensive plan to appropriately regionalize health care in Harford County. A plan for which they have reviewed with me on an ongoing basis from the start of their planning.

While you, and perhaps the MHCC Commissioners themselves, may have received concerned letters and/or calls from select elected officials and a small number of the public, I think it is important for you to be aware, that those opinions and concerns are not shared consistently across the majority of elected officials here in the County nor myself as County Executive. The dramatization that is taking place, and framed within the context of this COVID-19 pandemic is inappropriate and inaccurately presented on many different fronts.

Suffice it to say, that despite the political rhetoric taking place, I support UM UCH's projects moving forward recognizing that UM Harford Memorial Hospital will not close until the projects are complete on the Aberdeen campus as well as a recognition that the facilities on the Aberdeen campus will not be operational for at least two and a half years, well beyond our current pandemic situation.

I urge you as the Executive Director and the MHCC Commissioners to approve UM UCH's projects as supported by the MHCC Staff's Recommendation Report at the upcoming April 16th meeting.

With every good wish, I remain

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Barry Glassman".

Barry Glassman
Harford County Executive

BG/tmw

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