



COUNTY COUNCIL OF HARFORD COUNTY

Patrick S. Vincenti, President
212 S. Bond Street Bel Air, Maryland 21014

April 15, 2020

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

RE: Future of University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health Systems

Dear Mr. Steffen:

Thank you for your time over the last several days in reference to the future of Harford Memorial Hospital in Havre de Grace and the free-standing medical facility (FMF) planned for Aberdeen, MD. Growing up in the city of Havre de Grace and as a lifelong resident of Harford County I have watched the ebb and flow of Harford Memorial Hospital as its capacity and capabilities has changed over the years. When first hearing of Upper Chesapeake Health System's intentions to build a new facility, I was encouraged by the thoughts of a new, full-service, hospital coming to our community, but then later learned it was to be a FMF.

As the Chair of the Harford County Board of Health, the overall health, safety and wellbeing of the citizens of Harford County remains my top priority. This priority extends to the future of healthcare in Harford County as the University of Maryland, Upper Chesapeake Health Systems continues to grow and evolve. More than ever, with the current COVID-19 pandemic, we need to ensure all of our citizens have access to local, quality, and affordable health care.

If the FMF is approved by the Maryland Healthcare Commission, I strongly advocate for the provisions outlined in the second condition of the revised Final Order (attached). If approved, Harford Memorial Hospital should remain open until the completion and licensure of the FMF and special psychiatric hospital, located in Aberdeen, MD, is final. Closing this healthcare facility prematurely will have a severe negative impact on all residents of Harford County and leaving them without critical care.

Again, I thank you for your time and consideration.

Patrick S. Vincenti

Harford County Council, President

212 South Bond Street

Bel Air, MD 21014

Ph: (410) 638-3525

Email: pvincenti@harfordcountymd.gov

Website: www.HarfordCountyCouncil.com