

**Subject:** FW: UM HMH  
**From:** "Pollak M.D., Andrew" <Apollak@som.umaryland.edu>  
**To:** "Ben Steffen -DHMH- (ben.steffen@maryland.gov)" <ben.steffen@maryland.gov>  
**Date Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 11:32:22 AM GMT-04:00  
**Date Received:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 11:32:25 AM GMT-04:00  
**Attachments:** winmail.dat

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FYI -

From: Sandy Worthington <sworthington27@aol.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 11:27 AM  
To: Pollak M.D., Andrew <Apollak@som.umaryland.edu>  
Subject: UM HMH

Hello Dr. Pollak,

I am a lifelong Harford County resident. I was born at Harford Memorial Hospital. I am also a Registered Nurse who has worked at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore for over 26 years. I have always been opposed to the decision to close UM Harford Memorial Hospital. The idea of closing it and opening a Freestanding Medical Facility with only Emergency/Observation beds and Behavioral Health beds is not in the best interest of the residents of Harford County or the State of Maryland.

The state of Maryland is re-opening closed hospitals and has built emergency field hospitals. UMMC is partnering with the Lord Baltimore Hotel to place patients there during the "surge".

We are amidst one of the worst global health crises we have ever faced, and the Maryland Health Care Commission wants to hold a vote to determine the closure of one of the only two hospitals in Harford County, Maryland. This vote could make our worst fears a reality at the worst possible time.

I am aware that they will be asking for a Certificate of Need to put additional beds at the UM Upper Chesapeake Medical Center. Considering that we are in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the surge in critically ill patients that Maryland hospitals are experiencing, I feel that the actions on changing the Certificate of Need should be placed on hold. The closing of 1 of the 2 hospitals in Harford County should be deferred until after this pandemic is over. The United States has fast learned that we do not have enough ICU beds. We do not have enough negative pressure rooms for patients to be on isolation. We are canceling surgeries so that we can have beds and ventilators available for the COVID-19 patients. Harford County needs to keep a second freestanding, full service hospital. We do not need a glorified Emergency Room. The number of patients that needs Behavioral Health is sky-rocketing. Patients sit in the hospital for days to weeks awaiting a bed at an Inpatient Psych facility. We, as a Nation, need to learn from this COVID-19 pandemic, and make improvements in our Healthcare system so that we are better prepared in the event of another pandemic such as this one.

Please re-consider keeping Harford Memorial Hospital as a full service hospital. At the very least, please hold off on making any rash decisions at this time.

Thank you kindly for your time.

Sincerely,

Sandra Worthington  
305 Avatar Ct.  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078<x-apple-data-detectors://0/1>

Sent from my iPhone

**Subject:** Please remove Item 5 from your April 16 Agenda  
**From:** Wanda Boker <wandaboker@gmail.com>  
**To:** Ben.steffen@maryland.gov  
**Date Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 11:17:41 AM GMT-04:00  
**Date Received:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 11:17:55 AM GMT-04:00

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Director of the Maryland Health Care Commission Ben Steffen;

Healthcare in Maryland must prioritize accessible and quality healthcare for people over the profits of stockholders. If there is anything constructive coming out of the Covid-19 pandemic it's the opportunity to address the undeniable dangers of our dysfunctional healthcare system which simply wasn't designed to serve all people who need it.

We are in the middle of a health pandemic, already struggling with a lack of PPE, equipment, medical staff and hospital beds to meet our rising needs. It is inconceivable that the MHCC plans to waste precious time even discussing the closure of one of only two hospitals in Harford County during this moment of crisis.

As a citizen of Havre de Grace I implore you to postpone any discussion of closure until we have gotten through this pandemic and have a comprehensive lessons-learned study to asses how to responsibly strengthen our state's health care preparedness for the next health crisis, including how best to serve the people of Havre de Grace and surrounding areas who rely on our local hospital.

Sincerely,  
Wanda Boker

**Subject:** Urgent Request  
**From:** Resa Laird <resal@havredegracemd.com>  
**To:** ben.steffen@maryland.gov  
**Date Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 10:25:02 AM GMT-04:00  
**Date Received:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 10:25:16 AM GMT-04:00  
**Attachments:** Mayor Martin's Letter to Ben Steffen.pdf,Governor Hogan.pdf,Letter to HC Del. Exec. CC.pdf

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Dear Mr. Steffen,

I've attached three very important letters from Mayor Martin addressing a very urgent matter.

The Mayor respectfully requests your consideration.

With respect,

Resa Laird  
Executive Assistant to the Mayor  
410-939-1800 x 1138  
[Resal@havredegracemd.com](mailto:Resal@havredegracemd.com)



# CITY OF HAVRE DE GRACE

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

**William T. Martin**

April 15, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Steffen,

I hope this letter finds you well.

It is my understanding that the University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health's (UM UCH) application for a certificate of need, an exemption request, and a consolidation application are on the agenda for the Maryland Health Care Commission's (MHCC) next meeting to be held on April 16, 2020. Those applications include the closure of University of Maryland Harford Memorial Hospital (UM HMH) and the construction of a free-standing medical facility (FMF) in Aberdeen, the transfer of the licensed beds from UM HMH to University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Medical Center (UM UCH), and the construction of a psychiatric hospital in Aberdeen.

The intent of this letter is not to address the merits of the various UM UCH applications; my administration has provided many documents to the MHCC regarding the City's position on these projects in the past. I desire to bring to your attention my concerns regarding the timing of the deliberation of these applications.

The world, our nation, and the great State of Maryland are currently in the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic. This pandemic is costing trillions of dollars on the federal level, and billions of dollars at the State level. Governor Hogan announced that the State's rainy-day fund may very well be depleted by the time this pandemic is over and his administration will likely not approve any bills which call for more spending. Clearly, the future financial stability of our great State, at this current time, is in question.

The various plans that UM UCH have proffered in their three applications cost hundreds of millions of dollars (\$62,991,120 for the psychiatric hospital, \$84,406,807 for the closure and transfer of UM HMH licensed beds, and \$56,665,400 for the construction of the FMF). Based on the information contained within the various UM UCH applications, these projects will be financed predominantly with debt. In the MHCC request for completeness information on modified application dated November 19, 2019 regarding the psychiatric hospital application, the MHCC asked, "Given the substantial profits and cash reserves, the applicant

proposes to fund this project entirely through borrowing.” Please explain why this is financially prudent and beneficial to the citizens of Maryland. If the MHCC had concern with UM UCH borrowing this volume of money and the potential negative effects it would have on the citizens of Maryland before the State was in financial straits, the prudent course of action, considering the dire financial position the State of Maryland is in, is for the MHCC to postpone any decisions regarding the various UM UCH applications until such time after the COVID-19 pandemic is over and the true financial picture of the State of Maryland is known. At that time and only that time, will the MHCC truly be able to understand the impact the borrowing of this much debt will have on the citizens of Maryland.

While I understand that if the commission approves the various UM UCH applications, the actual closure of UM HMH will not occur for a couple of years, I have great concern with deciding the fate of any acute care facility during a pandemic. The fact is that none of us know what things will be like after the pandemic has passed; however, what we do know is things will be different. Once this crisis has passed, there will be after-action reports completed at the local, State, and Federal level to determine what worked well, and what courses of action need to be taken in order to better prepare ourselves in the future. As such, the topic of healthcare and the delivery of that healthcare to the community will inevitably be at the forefront of these changes. Making a decision now regarding the closure or construction of any healthcare facility will have long-lasting and irreversible effects. Because of the certificate of need law in the State of Maryland, the decisions of the MHCC on April 16, 2020 will cement the healthcare delivery model in Harford County before the pandemic is over and before any best practices and recommendations for change could ever be discussed or considered. It is likely that the optimal healthcare delivery model which serves the best interests of the citizens of Maryland in general, and Harford County specifically, will change in light of the pandemic. If the MHCC approves the various applications during this pandemic, the fate of healthcare in Harford County is sealed and the ability to benefit from analyzing this pandemic and better preparing for the future is lost. Ultimately the citizens are left to face the consequences of a decision which was made prematurely. It is simply not in the best interest of the citizens of Maryland and Harford County for the MHCC to take action on the UM UCH applications before the MHCC, State of Maryland, and the Country has had an opportunity to learn from this COVID-19 pandemic experience.

Additionally, I find it disheartening that the MHCC has publicly posted documents, dated April 16, 2020, which already contain final order approval letters in them for all three UM UCH applications. While I understand that the MHCC staff must proffer a recommendation to the commission regarding applications, I am dismayed that your recommendation documents are accompanied by letters of approval. This has sent the message to me and my constituents that a decision has already been made regarding the UM UCH applications before a formal vote of the MHCC has had an opportunity to take place.

For your consideration, and keeping consistent with the transparency of my administration, I have included letters I have sent to both Governor Hogan and our State legislators as well for your consideration.

Mr. Steffen, I implore you to remove the three UM UCH applications from the April 16<sup>th</sup> agenda and do not place them on a future agenda until we as a nation, a State, and a local community have had the opportunity to evaluate this pandemic, the financial impacts, and the effects it has had on healthcare. Only at that time can the MHCC make an informed decision regarding the future of healthcare delivery in our community.

Throughout the course of our lives we have moments like this: moments where doing the right thing feels difficult, where we are tested, and where our character is defined. This is one of your defining moments, Mr. Steffen! This is your opportunity to do what is right; I hope you find strength in knowing that delaying the review of the UMUCH applications today will create a better tomorrow for the citizens of Maryland.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William T. Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

William T. Martin

Mayor

City of Havre de Grace



# CITY OF HAVRE DE GRACE

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

**William T. Martin**

April 10, 2020

Hon. Lawrence J. Hogan  
Governor, State of Maryland  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1925

Dear Governor Hogan,

Since University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health (UM UCH) first announced its change of plans that it would no longer provide a new hospital to replace Harford Memorial Hospital (HMH), but rather construct a Free Standing Medical Facility (FMF) that would not provide acute care services or even full emergency care, the City of Havre de Grace has urged the rejection of this concept as inadequate and dangerous for the delivery of health care in Harford County. On numerous occasions, we have posed serious questions to the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) that remain unanswered.

Now, in the midst of a global pandemic, unbelievably and inexplicably, the MHCC has scheduled for action, on April 16, 2020 just six days from now, the review in full of all three UM UCH applications. Those applications include the closure of HMH and moving the licensed beds to Bel Air, the construction of a FMF in Aberdeen, and the construction of a psychiatric hospital in Aberdeen. Through the great work of your Administration, with the entire State desperately trying to increase the number of available hospital beds, and with HMH proving it has the ability to deliver essential critical care and expand that care on short notice, the MHCC's action on this matter is unacceptable.

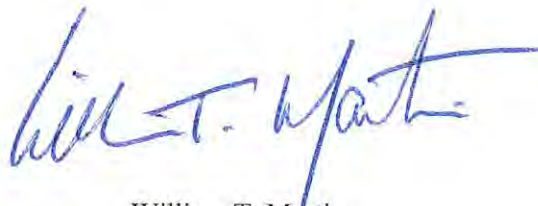
Considering the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic, the surge of critically ill patients both locally and on a national level, and the unknown consequences this pandemic may have on the physical structure of healthcare delivery going forward, the actions of the MHCC are shortsighted and irresponsible. The MHCC's stated mission is to "plan for health system needs, promote informed decision-making, increase accountability, and improve access in a rapidly changing healthcare environment by providing timely and accurate information on availability, cost, and quality of services to policy makers, purchasers, providers and the public." The review of the UM UCH's certificate of need applications during a pandemic and before the peak of the crisis has even hit our State, flies in the face of every goal the MHCC's stated mission seeks to accomplish. As such, it is necessary for legislators to immediately step in and right this wrong before it is too late.

In a recent Washington Post report, Dr. David Marcozzi, a professor and physician who is leading the COVID-19 response for UMMS, stated “[t]he health-care system across the country contracted as a result of trying to provide more efficient care . . . but if you contract the system, then when you have a surge, you are squeezed.” He added, “You don’t have lots of beds open and nurses waiting to provide care.” In addition, in a TIME report, CDC Director Dr. Robert Redfield stated that “If you look at hospital capacity right now, much of it is full, up to 95, 96, 97%, . . . So we really don’t have a lot of resilience in the capacity of our health system.”

How in the world are we still considering moving ahead with closing HMH, one of only two hospitals in Harford County, in the midst of a pandemic in a State that is among the 5 worst in the entire United States in the number of hospital beds available per citizen? The regional hospital system is an outdated model. It is time for a new vision of healthcare delivery – one that is community centered – that can provide acute care, but flexible enough to expand capacity as needs dictate, where rapid response from the local medical community is manageable and not a burden on medical providers and their families. Maryland has the opportunity to rise above the limitations of our current healthcare system and think outside the box.

We ask you to immediately intercede by Executive Order and stop this action, and to demand that any review of the UM UCH’s application be deferred until such time as the State of Maryland can revisit the criteria used for closing such a critical acute care facility in Harford County. Further, we seek a moratorium on the use of FMF’s as substitute emergency rooms, which provide no acute care capabilities, and cannot in most cases even treat Priority 1 and many Priority 2 patients that need immediate emergency care. The Maryland Healthcare Commission may decide to approve or reject UM UCH’s applications; however, we passionately argue that now, in the middle of a pandemic, is the wrong time to make such important and permanent decisions!

Thank you for putting the interests of our residents first!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William T. Martin".

William T. Martin  
Mayor



# CITY OF HAVRE DE GRACE

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

**William T. Martin**

April 10, 2020

Harford County Delegation District 7, 34 & 35  
Harford County Executive Barry Glassman  
Harford County Council Members

Honorable Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since the University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health (UM UCH) first announced its change of plans that it would no longer provide a new hospital to replace Harford Memorial Hospital (HMH), but rather construct a Free Standing Medical Facility (FMF) that would not provide acute care services or even full emergency care, the City of Havre de Grace has urged the rejection of this concept as inadequate and dangerous for the delivery of health care in Harford County. On numerous occasions, we have posed serious questions to the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) that remain unanswered.

Now, in the midst of a global pandemic, unbelievably and inexplicably, the MHCC has scheduled for action, on April 16, 2020 just six days from now, the review in full of all three UM UCH applications. Those applications include the closure of HMH and moving the licensed beds to Bel Air, the construction of a FMF in Aberdeen, and the construction of a psychiatric hospital in Aberdeen. Through the great work of the Hogan Administration, with the entire State desperately trying to increase the number of available hospital beds, and with HMH proving it has the ability to deliver essential critical care and expand that care on short notice, the MHCC's action is unacceptable.

Considering the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic, the surge of critically ill patients both locally and on a national level, and the unknown consequences this pandemic may have on the physical structure of healthcare delivery going forward, the actions of the MHCC are shortsighted and irresponsible. The MHCC's stated mission is to "plan for health system needs, promote informed decision-making, increase accountability, and improve access in a rapidly changing health care environment by providing timely and accurate information on availability, cost, and quality of services to policy makers, purchasers, providers and the public." The review of the UM UCH's certificate of need applications during a pandemic and before the peak of the crisis has even hit our State flies in the face of every goal MHCC's stated mission seeks to accomplish. As such, it is necessary for legislators to immediately step in and right this wrong before it is too late.

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result of trying to provide more efficient care . . . but if you contract the system, then when you have a surge, you are squeezed.” He added, “You don’t have lots of beds open and nurses waiting to provide care.” In addition, in a TIME report, CDC Director Dr. Robert Redfield stated that “If you look at hospital capacity right now, much of it is full, up to 95, 96, 97%, . . . So we really don’t have a lot of resilience in the capacity of our health system.”

How in the world are we still considering moving ahead with closing HMH, one of only two hospitals in Harford County, in the midst of a pandemic in a State that is among the 5 worst in the entire USA in the number of hospital beds available per citizen? The regional hospital system is an outdated model. It is time for a new vision of health care delivery – one that is community centered – that can provide acute care, but flexible enough to expand capacity as needs dictate, where rapid response from the local medical community is manageable and not a burden on medical providers and their families. Maryland has the opportunity to rise above the limitations of our current health care system and think outside the box.

We ask you to immediately urge Governor Hogan to intercede by Executive Order and stop this action, and to demand that any review of the UM UCH application be deferred until such time as the State of Maryland can revisit the criteria used for closing such a critical acute care facility in Harford County. Further, we seek a moratorium on the use of FMF’s as substitute emergency rooms, which provide no acute care capabilities, and cannot in most cases even treat Priority 1 and many Priority 2 patients that need immediate emergency care. The Maryland Healthcare Commission may decide to approve or reject UM UCH’s applications; however, we passionately argue that now, in the middle of a pandemic, is the wrong time to make such important and permanent decisions!

Thank you for putting the interests of our residents first!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "William T. Martin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

William T. Martin  
Mayor

**Subject:** Discussion on closing Harford Memorial Hospital  
**From:** rochelle keen <rkeen17@msn.com>  
**To:** "ben.steffen@maryland.gov" <ben.steffen@maryland.gov>  
**Date Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 9:35:05 AM GMT-04:00  
**Date Received:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 9:35:07 AM GMT-04:00

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I am writing to express deep concern and outrage that the discussion on closing HMH is proceeding at all much less in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is a vital medical facility for the citizens of Havre de Grace and the surrounding area. Much of the elderly population including my own parents, aunts and uncles rely on the services of this hospital that is only 5-10 minutes from their home. It is a tremendous burden on them to have to travel even to Upper Chesapeake Medical Center in Bel Air for certain procedures.

I will echo the sentiment of Mayor Bill Martin in his letter to Governor Hogan.

"We ask you to immediately intercede by Executive Order and stop this action, and to demand that any review of the UM UCH's application be deferred until such time as the state of Maryland can revisit the criteria used for closing such a critical acute care facility in Harford County," Martin wrote. "We passionately argue that now, in the middle of a pandemic, is the wrong time to make such important and permanent decisions!"

This is short sighted and ill thought out and should be stopped!!

Regards,

**Rochelle Keen**

Independent Technology Consulting

mobile 717.989.2493

[rkeen17@msn.com](mailto:rkeen17@msn.com)

Medical Device . Product Development . Clinical Trials . Marketing

**Subject:** Harford Memorial Hospital  
**From:** Ed Garono <egarono@gmail.com>  
**To:** Ben.Steffen@maryland.gov  
**Date Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 2:26:57 PM GMT-04:00  
**Date Received:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 2:27:10 PM GMT-04:00

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As a Harford County, HavredeGrace resident I am asking the MHCC to remove item 5, University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health Care System's application to shut down Harford Memorial Hospital and replace it with a Free Standing Medical Facility, from the MHCC April 16th agenda.

This is the wrong time to be making such an important decision. Where will our community go for acute healthcare needs?

I have gone to many meetings about this and I am totally against closing this hospital.

Sincerely,  
Edward L. Garono  
908 S. Washington Street  
Havre de Grace, Maryland 21078

410-688-3707

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**For Security and privacy purposes as well as protection against spam and viruses, I'm asking you not to forward this email without editing out my email address (From...) and any names, email addresses, headers and commentary from all other forwarders that appear in the email, and to use BCC..., rather than TO..., for addressing multiple recipients to whom you may be forwarding this email. Your honoring this request will be greatly appreciated!**

**Subject:** Harford Memorial Hospital  
**From:** Karen Garono <karen.garono@gmail.com>  
**To:** Ben.steffen@maryland.gov  
**Date Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 2:19:09 PM GMT-04:00  
**Date Received:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 2:19:21 PM GMT-04:00

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I am asking the MHCC to remove item 5, University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health Care System's application to shut down Harford Memorial Hospital and replace it with a Free Standing Medical Facility , from the MHCC April 16th agenda.

I am a Havre de Grace resident and have gone to many meetings about the closing of our hospital and I am against this action.... Did we close Johns Hopkins because it was old and outdated...no, we made it better and it is famous...

This is the wrong time to be making such an impactful community decision. Where will the community go for acute health care needs?

So, remove item 5 from the MHCC agenda on April 16, 2020.

Sincerely,  
Karen Garono  
908 S. Washington Street  
Haver de Grace, MD 21078

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[Karen Garono](#)  
[Cell: 410 688 3626](#)  
[Fax:](#)  
[Email: karen.garono@gmail.com](mailto:karen.garono@gmail.com)  
[Website: www.edgarono.com](http://www.edgarono.com)

**Subject:** Covid-19 and MHMH  
**From:** Callie Yaeger <callie.yaeger@gmail.com>  
**To:** ben.steffen@maryland.gov  
**Date Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 10:44:32 AM GMT-04:00  
**Date Received:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 10:44:45 AM GMT-04:00

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Maryland Health Care Commission  
Ben Steffen, Executive Director

The Maryland Health Care Commission has just announced a meeting for April 16, 2020. Imagine the surprise when I learned item #5 is Upper Chesapeake Health – Reconfiguration of Hospital Facilities and Services in Harford County

A. ACTION: Request for Exemption from Certificate of Need Review – Conversion of University of Maryland Harford Memorial Hospital to a Freestanding Medical Facility (Docket No. 17-12-EX004)

Now during this global Covid-19 pandemic and the fact that Maryland has not reached the peak in the curve, the Governor is re-opening closed hospital facilities and creating emergency field hospitals what is the rush in moving forward on the closing one of the two hospitals in Harford County?

In light of the current state of the Covid-19 pandemic, the surge of critically ill and the unknown consequences this pandemic may have on the physical structure of health care delivery, I am opposed to the current review of UM UHC's certificate of need application at this time.

Thank You,  
Callie Yaeger  
Havre de Grace, Maryland

**Subject:** UM Harford Memorial Hospital  
**From:** sworthington27@aol.com  
**To:** ben.steffen@maryland.gov  
**Date Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2020 6:09:41 PM GMT-04:00  
**Date Received:** Monday, April 13, 2020 6:09:43 PM GMT-04:00

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Hello,

I am a lifelong Harford County resident. I was born at Harford Memorial Hospital. I am also a Registered Nurse who has worked at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore for over 26 years. I have always been opposed to the decision to close UM Harford Memorial Hospital. The idea of closing it and opening a Freestanding Medical Facility with only Emergency/Observation beds and Behavioral Health beds is not in the best interest of the residents of Harford County or the State of Maryland.

The state of Maryland is re-opening closed hospitals and has built emergency field hospitals. UMMC is partnering with the Lord Baltimore Hotel to place patients there during the "surge".

We are amidst one of the worst global health crises we have ever faced, and the Maryland Health Care Commission wants to hold a vote to determine the closure of one of the only two hospitals in Harford County, Maryland. This vote could make our worst fears a reality at the worst possible time.

I am aware that they will be asking for a Certificate of Need to put additional beds at the UM Upper Chesapeake Medical Center. Considering that we are in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the surge in critically ill patients that Maryland hospitals are experiencing, I feel that the actions on changing the Certificate of Need should be placed on hold. The closing of 1 of the 2 hospitals in Harford County should be deferred until after this pandemic is over. The United States has fast learned that we do not have enough ICU beds. We do not have enough negative pressure rooms for patients to be on isolation. We are canceling surgeries so that we can have beds and ventilators available for the COVID-19 patients. Harford County needs to keep a second freestanding, full service hospital. We do not need a glorified Emergency Room. The number of patients that needs Behavioral Health is sky-rocketing. Patients sit in the hospital for days to weeks awaiting a bed at an Inpatient Psych facility. We, as a Nation, need to learn from this COVID-19 pandemic, and make improvements in our Healthcare system so that we are better prepared in the event of another pandemic such as this one.

Please re-consider keeping UM Harford Memorial Hospital as a full service hospital. At the very least, please hold off on making any rash decisions at this time.

Thank you kindly for your time.

Sandra Worthington  
305 Avatar Ct.  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078

**Subject:** Agenda Change Required

**From:** Mel Stachura <melstachura@gmail.com>

**To:** ben.steffen@maryland.gov,paul.parker@maryland.gov,eileen.fleck@maryland.gov,steve.johnson@house.state.md.us,maryann.lisanti@house.state.md.us,susan.mccomas@house.state.md.us,kevin.hornberger@house.state.md.us

**Date Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2020 2:42:25 PM GMT-04:00

**Date Received:** Monday, April 13, 2020 2:43:04 PM GMT-04:00

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In light of the current state of the Covid-19 pandemic, the surge of critically ill and the unknown consequences this pandemic may have on the physical structure of health care delivery I am opposed to the current review of UM UHC's certificate of need application at this time.

Thank You,

Melvin Thomas Stachura

316 S Stokes St, Havre de Grace, MD 21078

Maryland Health Care Commission

Ben Steffen, Executive Director,

410.764.3565 ([ben.steffen@maryland.gov](mailto:ben.steffen@maryland.gov))

Paul Parker, Director, Health Care Facilities Planning 410.764.3261

([paul.parker@maryland.gov](mailto:paul.parker@maryland.gov))

Eileen Fleck, Chief, Acute Care Policy Planning

410.764.3287 ([eileen.fleck@maryland.gov](mailto:eileen.fleck@maryland.gov))

The Honorable Larry Hogan, Governor of Maryland

<https://governor.maryland.gov/contact-the-governor/>

Harford County Delegates and Senators:

Delegate Steve Johnson

[steve.johnson@house.state.md.us](mailto:steve.johnson@house.state.md.us)

Delegate Mary Ann Lisanti [maryann.lisanti@house.state.md.us](mailto:maryann.lisanti@house.state.md.us)

Delegate Susan McComas [susan.mccomas@house.state.md.us](mailto:susan.mccomas@house.state.md.us)

Delegate Michael Griffith

[mike.griffith@house.state.md.us](mailto:mike.griffith@house.state.md.us)

Delegate Teresa Reilly

[teresa.reilly@house.state.md.us](mailto:teresa.reilly@house.state.md.us)

Delegate Kevin Hornberger

[kevin.hornberger@house.state.md.us](mailto:kevin.hornberger@house.state.md.us)

Delegate Kathy Szeliga

[kathy.szeliga@house.state.md.us](mailto:kathy.szeliga@house.state.md.us)

Delegate Rick Impallaria

[rick.impallaria@house.state.md.us](mailto:rick.impallaria@house.state.md.us)

Delegate Lauren Arian

[lauren.arikan@house.state.md.us](mailto:lauren.arikan@house.state.md.us)

Senator Robert Cassilly

[bob.cassilly@senate.state.md.us](mailto:bob.cassilly@senate.state.md.us)

Senator Jason Gallion

[jason.gallion@senate.state.md.us](mailto:jason.gallion@senate.state.md.us)

Senator J. B. Jennings

[jb.jennings@senate.state.md.us](mailto:jb.jennings@senate.state.md.us)

--  
Mel Stachura - *Making Things Happen Since 1952*

**Subject:** MHCC meeting 4/16  
**From:** "Johnson, Steve Delegate" <Steve.Johnson@house.state.md.us>  
**To:** 'Ben Steffen -MDH-' <ben.steffen@maryland.gov>  
**Date Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2020 2:38:44 PM GMT-04:00  
**Date Received:** Monday, April 13, 2020 2:38:51 PM GMT-04:00  
**Attachments:** steffen.pdf,mhcc agenda.pdf

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Good Afternoon,

Attached is a time sensitive letter with supporting information regarding the MHCC meeting on Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup> from Delegates Johnson and Lisanti.

Thank you,



**Delegate Steve Johnson**

Harford County Legislative District 34A  
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6 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401  
Ph: (410) 841-3280  
e-mail: Steve.Johnson@house.state.md.us

STEVE JOHNSON

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800-492-7122 Ext. 3280  
Steve.Johnson@house.state.md.us

Health and Government  
Operations Committee



MARY ANN LISANTI

The Maryland House of Delegates  
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MaryAnn.Lisanti@house.state.md.us

Ways and Means Committee

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 34A  
HARFORD COUNTY

April 10, 2020

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

**RE: April 16<sup>th</sup> AGENDA – ITEM 5 (Request to remove from agenda)**

Dear Mr. Steffen:

The world is in crisis. Leaders in every nation are acting to protect the life and safety of their citizens. We have shortages of hospital beds, equipment and workers. Our Governor has declared a state of emergency, a stay at home order and closed all non-essential businesses.

In the meantime, the Maryland Health Care Commission has issued a meeting agenda for next week that includes an item if approved would result in closing a full- service hospital in Havre de Grace after providing thirty days written notice. Is this a mistake, poor planning, abuse of power, indifference to process or a lack of understand that we are facing a global virus that threatens our civilization?

No immunity, no vaccine, no cure means that until a treatment is discovered we are in a healthcare and economic calamity. Going forward, it is certain that decisions on how healthcare is delivered will be challenged giving the high death toll in Maryland, America and abroad.

Any action to move forward on items #5 is a blatant disregard for public health and a direct assault on the health and safety of the people we represent, therefore we respectfully ask you to remove this item from consideration until this public emergency is over and we have a better understanding of our community healthcare needs.

Sincerely;

Handwritten signature of Steve Johnson in blue ink.

Steve Johnson  
Delegate, District 34A

Handwritten signature of Mary Ann Lisanti in blue ink.

Mary Ann Lisanti  
Delegate, District 34A

Cc: Governor Larry Hogan, Governor of Maryland  
MHCC Commissioners



**MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION**  
4160 PATTERSON AVENUE – BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21215  
TELEPHONE: 410-764-3460 FAX: 410-358-1236

**Thursday, April 16, 2020**  
**1:00 p.m.**  
**AGENDA**

**\*Please Note This Agenda is Subject to Change**

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**2. UPDATE OF ACTIVITIES**

**3. ACTION: Confirmation Docket – Emergency Certificates of Need for Field Hospitals**

- A. Confirmation of approved Emergency Certificate of Need - Frederick Health Hospital – Establishment of 20 Additional Inpatient Beds In Two Temporary Field Hospital Inpatient Units (Docket No. EM-H20-10-014)
- B. Confirmation of approved Emergency Certificate of Need - Adventist HealthCare, Inc. d/b/a Adventist HealthCare Fort Washington Medical Center - Establishment of 20 Inpatient Beds In Two Temporary Field Hospital Inpatient Units (Docket No. EM-H20-16-015)

**4. ACTION: Confirmation Docket – Other Emergency Certificates of Need**

- A. Confirmation of approved Emergency Certificate of Need - Establishment of 63-bed temporary remote location of Adventist HealthCare, Inc. d/b/a Adventist Health Care White Oak Medical Center at former Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Maryland (Docket No. EM-H20-15-008)
- B. Confirmation of approved Emergency Certificate of Need - Adventist HealthCare, Inc. d/b/a Adventist Health Care White Oak Medical Center – Establishment of 23 inpatient beds (Docket No. EM-H20-15-009)
- C. Confirmation of approved Emergency Certificate of Need - Kaiser Permanente Largo Medical Center -Establishment of a Temporary General Hospital with 68 Inpatient Beds to Serve Lower Intensity Patients (Docket No. EM-H20-16-010)
- D. Confirmation of approved Emergency Certificate of Need - Kaiser Permanente Gaithersburg Medical Center - Establishment of a Temporary General Hospital with 49 Inpatient Beds to Serve Lower Intensity Patients (Docket No. EM-H20-15-011)

- E. Confirmation of approved Emergency Certificate of Need - Kaiser Permanente Southern Baltimore County Medical Center - Establishment of a Temporary General Hospital with 45 Inpatient Beds to Serve Lower Intensity Patients (Docket No. EM-H20-03-012)
- F. Confirmation of approved Emergency Certificate of Need - Kaiser Permanente Kensington Medical Center - Establishment of a Temporary General Hospital with 10 Inpatient Beds to Serve Lower Intensity Patients (Docket No. EM-H20-15-013)
- G. Confirmation of approved Emergency Certificate of Need - Frederick Health Hospital – Establishment of 20 Additional Inpatient Beds In Two Temporary Field Hospital Inpatient Units (Docket No. EM-H20-10-014)
- H. Confirmation of approved Emergency Certificate of Need - Adventist HealthCare, Inc. d/b/a Adventist HealthCare Fort Washington Medical Center - Establishment of 20 Inpatient Beds In Two Temporary Field Hospital Inpatient Units (Docket No. EM-H20-16-015)
- I. Confirmation of approved Emergency Certificate of Need - Holy Cross Hospital (Silver Spring) - Establishment of 84 Additional Inpatient Beds
- J. Confirmation of approved Emergency Certificate of Need - Establishment of a 13-Bed Behavioral Health Unit Remote Location of UM Upper Chesapeake Health System Harford Memorial Hospital at the Klein Family Harford Crisis Center in Bel Air, Maryland (Docket No. EM-H20-12-20)
- K. Confirmation of approved Emergency Certificate of Need - UM Upper Chesapeake Health System Harford Memorial Hospital – Establishment of 8 Additional Inpatient Beds (Docket No. EM-H20-12-21)



- 5. **ACTION:** Upper Chesapeake Health – Reconfiguration of Hospital Facilities and Services in Harford County
  - A. **ACTION:** Request for Exemption from Certificate of Need Review – Conversion of University of Maryland Harford Memorial Hospital to a Freestanding Medical Facility (Docket No. 17-12-EX004)
  - B. **ACTION:** Request for Exemption from Certificate of Need Review – Change in Bed Capacity of University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Medical Center (Docket No. 17-12-EX003)
  - C. **ACTION:** Certificate of Need – Establishment of a Special Psychiatric Hospital (Docket No. 18-12-2436)
- 6. **ACTION:** Certificate of Conformance – Howard County General Hospital – Establish Elective Percutaneous Coronary Intervention Services (Matter No. CC-19-13-008)
- 7. **ACTION:** Re-Designation of the Maryland Patient Safety Center
- 8. **PRESENTATION:** Overview of Hospital Rating Systems

**Subject:** Conversion of University of Maryland Harford Memorial Hospital to a Freestanding Medical Facility (Docket No. 17-12-EX004)

**From:** Barbara Sponn <bsponn@hotmail.com>

**To:** Barbara Sponn <bsponn@hotmail.com>

**Date Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2020 2:24:33 PM GMT-04:00

**Date Received:** Monday, April 13, 2020 2:24:35 PM GMT-04:00

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In light of the current state of the Covid-19 pandemic, the surge of critically ill and the unknown consequences this pandemic may have on the physical structure of health care delivery, I am opposed to the review of UM UHC's certificate of need application at this time.

Now during this global COVID-19 pandemic and the fact that Maryland has not reached the peak in the curve, the Governor is re-opening closed hospital facilities and creating emergency field hospitals. What is the rush in moving forward on the closing one of the two hospitals in Harford County? Why isn't the MHCC waiting to see what the future structure of health care will become? I believe their actions are irresponsible and hasty. Please do not allow approval of the closure of UM HMH and construction of a freestanding ambulatory facility in Aberdeen to occur at this time. Further information and analysis will be needed after the pandemic has ended.

Thank You,

Barbara M Sponn  
606 Peace Chance Drive  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078

**Subject:** Fwd: Maryland Health Care Commission meeting - April 16, 2020  
**From:** Eileen Fleck -MDH- <[eileen.fleck@maryland.gov](mailto:eileen.fleck@maryland.gov)>  
**To:** Ben Steffen -DHMH- <[ben.steffen@maryland.gov](mailto:ben.steffen@maryland.gov)>  
**Date Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2020 2:17:53 PM GMT-04:00  
**Date Received:** Monday, April 13, 2020 2:18:30 PM GMT-04:00

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FYI

Eileen Fleck  
Chief, Acute Care Policy & Planning  
Maryland Health Care Commission  
4160 Patterson Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215  
Phone: (410) 764-3287  
Fax: (410) 358-1236

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **ROBERT SHERMAN** <[rsherm@verizon.net](mailto:rsherm@verizon.net)>  
Date: Mon, Apr 13, 2020 at 12:32 PM  
Subject: Maryland Health Care Commission meeting - April 16, 2020  
To: [eileen.fleck@maryland.gov](mailto:eileen.fleck@maryland.gov) <[eileen.fleck@maryland.gov](mailto:eileen.fleck@maryland.gov)>

April 13, 2020

Reference:

The Maryland Health Care Commission meeting scheduled for April 16, 2020

I understand one of the items to be discussed at this meeting is the following:

Upper Chesapeake Health – Reconfiguration of Hospital Facilities and Services in Harford County

A. ACTION: Request for Exemption from Certificate of Need Review – Conversion of University of Maryland Harford Memorial Hospital to a Freestanding Medical Facility.

There have been stories in the news recently about the University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health Care facilities in Aberdeen and Bel Air expanding their capacity; however it is my understanding that the Aberdeen location is still subject to approval. I believe it would be pre-mature to close Harford Memorial Hospital in Havre de Grace before the other two facilities; Aberdeen and Bel Air are fully operational.

Now during this global COVID-19 pandemic and the fact that Maryland has not reached the peak in the curve, the Governor is re-opening closed hospital facilities and creating emergency field hospitals; therefore it seems to me it would be more important than ever to not only keep this facility open, but also expand its capabilities.

During normal times it is important to the residents of the greater Havre de Grace area to have immediate access to an emergency health care facility and especially now, in light of the current state of the Covid-19 pandemic, the surge of critically ill and the unknown consequences this pandemic may have on the physical structure of health care delivery I believe it is important for this facility to remain open. I am not in favor of the total closure of Harford Memorial Hospital at any time, but especially now during these unknown times in health care and what our future needs may be.

I ask that you do whatever you can within your office to see that the University of Maryland Health care facility at Harford Memorial in Havre de Grace, Md. remains open for the foreseeable future.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Robert D. Sherman

115 Snow Chief Drive,

Sent via e-mail from

[rsherm@verizon.net](mailto:rsherm@verizon.net)

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**Subject:****From:** Page Mitchem <pagella86@gmail.com>**To:** "Ben.steffen@maryland.gov" <Ben.steffen@maryland.gov>**Date Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2020 2:09:29 PM GMT-04:00**Date Received:** Monday, April 13, 2020 2:09:31 PM GMT-04:00

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I understand that on April 16, the Maryland Health Care Commission will be voting on University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health Care System's application to shut down Harford Memorial Hospital and replace it with a Free Standing Medical Facility.

I am asking that item 5 be removed from the agenda at this time based on the following:

1. The current crisis with the COVID-19 indicates that this plan of providing limited emergency services and a few beds to this part of Harford and Cecil county is not viable, short sighted and shows a total lack of concern for quality care.
2. Prior to this crisis we had two family members and a good friend who recently had very bad experiences with the care they received at Upper Chesapeake Hospital. I am not going into the details here; however, the quality of health care for our area right now is poor to fair. (some examples: 8 hour waits in emergency, no beds, pillows or blankets, untrained staffing, heavy traffic). If you call an ambulance living less than 1 mile from hospital your 74 year old mother gets re routed to a hospital 30 miles North in Elkton Md who are not part of health care system she uses. She is one of the lucky ones she has blue cross blue shield along with medicare so at least it was covered.
3. You must take a good look at their plan in light of the current COVID-19 situation, and the changes necessary to move forward to provide good health care to all the citizens in Harford and Cecil counties.

Thank you and I beg you to look at this situation carefully and learn all the facts from the people directly impacted by this plan. We deserve to be heard.

Page Mitchem

**Subject:** Removing item 5 from the April 16th MHCC meeting agenda  
**From:** Karen Carag <karjun5@yahoo.com>  
**To:** "Ben.steffen@maryland.gov" <Ben.steffen@maryland.gov>  
**Date Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2020 1:01:21 PM GMT-04:00  
**Date Received:** Monday, April 13, 2020 1:01:23 PM GMT-04:00

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Dear Director Steffen,

We are Cecil County residents, but also retired as a nurse and physician from Harford Memorial Hospital.

University of Maryland Harford Memorial is the only hospital we would want to go to in the event of an emergency. This is not the time to make this community healthcare decision in light of the Covid 19 virus.

Please hold off and do more research.

This part of Cecil county, Port Deposit, Conowingo and Rising Sun and Perryville very much rely on this hospital.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen A Carag, RN  
Vicente R Carag, Jr, MD

**Subject:** Harford Memorial Hospital closing  
**From:** mike kelly <mak284@yahoo.com>  
**To:** ben.steffen@maryland.gov  
**Date Sent:** Sunday, April 12, 2020 2:21:33 PM GMT-04:00  
**Date Received:** Sunday, April 12, 2020 2:21:39 PM GMT-04:00

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Director Steffen,

As a Harford County, Havre de Grace, MD resident, I am asking the MHCC to remove Item 5, University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health Care System's application to shut down Harford Memorial Hospital and replace it with a Free Standing Medical Facility, from the MHCC April 16th agenda.

Without Harford Memorial Hospital, we, in Harford County, and in Maryland, would not be able to provide the much needed community healthcare in the current healthcare emergency or on a daily basis.

This is the wrong time to be making such an impactful community decision. More information, including the impact of community health if Harford Memorial is closed, is needed. Where will the community go for acute healthcare needs?

Please recognize that more discussion and quality research is needed to make such an important community healthcare decision and remove Item 5 from the MHCC agenda, on April 16, 2020.

Respectfully,  
Michael Kelly  
451 Commerce Street  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078  
717-515-4482

**Subject:** removing item 5 from the April 16th MHCC meeting agenda  
**From:** Penni Kelly <luckipenni@gmail.com>  
**To:** Ben.steffen@maryland.gov  
**Date Sent:** Sunday, April 12, 2020 11:45:03 AM GMT-04:00  
**Date Received:** Sunday, April 12, 2020 11:45:16 AM GMT-04:00

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Director Steffen,

As a Harford County, Havre de Grace, MD resident, I am asking the MHCC to remove Item 5, University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health Care System's application to shut down Harford Memorial Hospital and replace it with a Free Standing Medical Facility, from the MHCC April 16th agenda.

Without Harford Memorial Hospital, we, in Harford County, and in Maryland, would not be able to provide the much needed community healthcare in the current healthcare emergency or on a daily basis.

This is the wrong time to be making such an impactful community decision. More information, including the impact of community health if Harford Memorial is closed, is needed. Where will the community go for acute healthcare needs?

Please recognize that more discussion and quality research is needed to make such an important community healthcare decision and remove Item 5 from the MHCC agenda, on April 16, 2020.

Respectfully,  
Penelope Kelly  
451 Commerce Street  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078  
443-417-6349

**Subject:** Please delay vote on Havre de Grace Harford Memorial Hospital

**From:** Kara Pleasants <kara.m.pleasants@gmail.com>

**To:** ben.steffen@maryland.gov

**Date Sent:** Sunday, April 12, 2020 12:50:16 AM GMT-04:00

**Date Received:** Sunday, April 12, 2020 12:50:17 AM GMT-04:00

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I am writing in support of my mayor, Bill Martin, and fellow citizens of Havre de Grace and Harford County to ask that you delay voting in the closure of the Harford Memorial Hospital on April 16. Please take time to review the letter from my mayor, which outlines the major concerns we have about a lack of access to critical medical care if this hospital is closed.

I have two children and my parents, both of whom have health conditions, live in Havre de Grace. It is critical for us to have access to quality emergency and full hospital care locally. Given the grave medical inequalities being underscored by the current pandemic, I hope you will seriously consider our request.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Kara Pleasants

[https://havredegracemd.gov/app/uploads/2020/04/HB-926-HB-1277\\_Letter-from-Mayor-Martin-2.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2HJwCwXeWhbUrqwBAmq2WTUOceNZ5Lnf-nBULGikeb7yTIRJjfGHU1\\_v8](https://havredegracemd.gov/app/uploads/2020/04/HB-926-HB-1277_Letter-from-Mayor-Martin-2.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2HJwCwXeWhbUrqwBAmq2WTUOceNZ5Lnf-nBULGikeb7yTIRJjfGHU1_v8)

**Subject:** Conversion of University of Maryland Harford Memorial Hospital to a Freestanding Medical Facility (Docket No. 17-12-EX004)

**From:** Ann Marie Serwa <amserwa415@verizon.net>

**To:** ben.steffen@maryland.gov

**Date Sent:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 8:10:51 PM GMT-04:00

**Date Received:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 8:10:55 PM GMT-04:00

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Maryland Health Care Commission  
Ben Steffen, Executive Director

Mr. Steffen

During this global Covid-19 pandemic, and the fact that Maryland has not reached the peak in the curve, the Governor is re-opening closed hospital facilities and creating emergency field hospitals; therefore:

What is the rush to close one of the two hospitals in Harford County?

Why isn't the MHCC waiting to see what the future structure of health care will become?

I believe their actions are irresponsible and hasty. In light of the current state of the Covid-19 pandemic, the surge of critically ill, and the unknown consequences this pandemic may have on the physical structure of health care deliver, I am opposed to the current review of UM UHC's certificate of need application at this time.

Thank You

Ann Marie Serwa  
amserwa415@verizon.net  
301-648-6767

**Subject:** MD Health Care Commission  
**From:** Jay DuBree <jay.dubree@gmail.com>  
**To:** Ben.steffen@maryland.gov  
**Date Sent:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 7:09:01 PM GMT-04:00  
**Date Received:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 7:09:13 PM GMT-04:00

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Sir,

We are in unknown territory for health care across the nation. Withing MD we have seen thousands of cases of COVID-19 as well as the normal cases our health care system has to handle. During these times, we have seen that the thoughts and plans over the last decade for health care has left MD citizens with too few hospital beds, too few urgent care centers, too few ICU beds and an unwelcome concentration of full care hospitals in urban/ suburban areas.

To go forth with meetings while we are under a restricted state is unwise, to go forth with even entertaining the thought of closing a full service hospital until we are thru this pandemic is unwise.

I ask that any plan or request to close any full service hospital. ( Harford Memorial in particular); be removed from agenda's and coded TBD ( To be Determined) until we have cleared the pandemic,and all after action reviews and future guidance is complete.

I understand that UMMC / Upper Chesapeake is attempting to stay on track, but these are unknown times, times we as a state and nation never thought we would see. To allow any plan to move forward on closing a hospital is not the best course of action until we as a state with our many Dr's, scientists, experts and experience can have a new path forward so we are better prepared in the future for the next generations.

Thank You

Jay D. DuBree  
Aberdeen, MD

**Subject:** City of Havre de Grace Harford Memorial Hospital  
**From:** Sheena Stevanak <sheena.stevanak@gmail.com>  
**To:** ben.steffen@maryland.gov  
**Date Sent:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 6:26:34 PM GMT-04:00  
**Date Received:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 6:26:45 PM GMT-04:00

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Mr. Steffen,

We are concerned citizens of Havre de Grace and believe very strongly that Harford Memorial Hospital should remain open until well after the end of the Covid-19 pandemic. We are strongly urging that the commission remove item 5 (the application to shut down Harford Memorial Hospital and replace it with a free-standing medical facility) from the April 16, 2020 agenda. Thank you for your service to our state especially during this trying time.

Sincerely,

Joe and Sheena Stevanak

**Subject:** Harford Memorial Hospital

**From:** Stephen Marksamer <sjmark1@comcast.net>

**To:** Ben Steffen <ben.steffen@maryland.gov>, Paul Parker <paul.parker@maryland.gov>, Eileen Fleck <eileen.fleck@maryland.gov>, Steve Johnson <steve.johnson@house.state.md.us>, Mary Ann Lisanti <maryann.lisanti@house.state.md.us>, Susan McComas <susan.mccomas@house.state.md.us>, Michael Griffith <mike.griffith@house.state.md.us>, Teresa Reilly <teresa.reilly@house.state.md.us>, Kevin Hornberger <kevin.hornberger@house.state.md.us>, Kathy Szeliga <kathy.szeliga@house.state.md.us>, Rick Impallaria <rick.impallaria@house.state.md.us>, Lauren Arikan <lauren.arikan@house.state.md.us>, Robert Cassilly <bob.cassilly@senate.state.md.us>, Jason Gallion <jason.gallion@senate.state.md.us>, "J. B. Jennings" <jb.jennings@senate.state.md.us>

**Date Sent:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 5:55:59 PM GMT-04:00

**Date Received:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 5:56:04 PM GMT-04:00

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To Distinguished Persons on this distribution,

In light of the current state of the Covid-19 pandemic, the surge of critically ill and the unknown consequences this pandemic may have on the physical structure of health care delivery I am opposed to the current review of UM UHC's certificate of need application at this time.

Mayor Bill Martin of Harve de Grace recently sent Gov Hogan a letter regarding the benefits of keeping a full service medical hospital and difficulties a closing of such a facility word cause to our community. I want to raise my voice in full support of our mayor and other community officials who see the benefit that Harford memorial both has served in the past and how a newer, modern facility would similarly serve going forward.

Please step in, as administrators and legislators representing the best interests of our county, to stop the immediate review closing the HMH facility and thus allow the reevaluation of requirements for Harford County medical care.

Thank You,

Sincerely,

Stephen Marksamer  
206 War Admiral Way  
Havre de Grace, Md 21078  
[Sjmark1@comcast.net](mailto:sjmark1@comcast.net)

**Subject:** Closing of UM Harford Memorial Hospital.  
**From:** featherfactory <featherfactory@comcast.net>  
**To:** Ben.steffen@maryland.gov  
**Date Sent:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 3:34:46 PM GMT-04:00  
**Date Received:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 3:34:57 PM GMT-04:00

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Please postpone the hearing on the closing of this hospital. We need this hospital more than ever now with covid-19. We need this hospital even when things are normal. I have seen the emergency room full and no beds available in the hospital during flu season every year since I moved here 6 years ago. We feel it is very important to have this hospital available for both Harford County and western Cecil County. Thank you for your consideration. John R. and Kathleen Lee, 314 Bourbon Street, Havre de Grace, Maryland, 21078. Phone 410 939-.2538

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

**Subject:** MHCC Agenda April 16, 2020  
**From:** "chrismgriffith@hotmail.com" <purudm@aol.com>  
**To:** ben.steffen@maryland.gov  
**Cc:** billm@havredegracemd.com  
**Date Sent:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 2:15:55 PM GMT-04:00  
**Date Received:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 2:16:01 PM GMT-04:00

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Ben,

In light of the current state of the Covid-19 pandemic, the surge of critically ill and the unknown consequences this pandemic may have on the physical structure of health care delivery I am opposed to the current review of UM UHC's certificate of need application at this time.

Thank You,  
David Martin  
Havre de Grace

**Subject:** Item 5 April 16 Agenda

**From:** Julia Downer <jldowner9@verizon.net>

**To:** "Ben.steffen@maryland.gov" <Ben.steffen@maryland.gov>

**Date Sent:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 2:03:14 PM GMT-04:00

**Date Received:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 2:03:17 PM GMT-04:00

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I understand that on April 16, the Maryland Health Care Commission will be voting on University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health Care System's application to shut down Harford Memorial Hospital and replace it with a Free Standing Medical Facility.

I am asking that item 5 be removed from the agenda at this time based on the following:

1. The current crisis with the COVID-19 indicates that this plan of providing limited emergency services and a few beds to this part of Harford and Cecil county is not viable, short sighted and shows a total lack of concern for quality care.
2. Prior to this crisis we had two family members and a good friend who recently had very bad experiences with the care they received at Upper Chesapeake Hospital. I am not going into the details here; however, the quality of health care for our area right now is poor to fair. (some examples: 8 hour waits in emergency, no beds, pillows or blankets, untrained staffing, heavy traffic).
3. You must take a good look at their plan in light of the current COVID-19 situation, and the changes necessary to move forward to provide good health care to all the citizens in Harford and Cecil counties.

Thank you and I beg you to look at this situation carefully and learn all the facts from the people directly impacted by this plan. We deserve to be heard.

Julia and Robert Downer  
jldowner9@verizon.net

**Subject:** Opposing Closure of Harford Memorial Hospital  
**From:** Lisa Dryden <lisa.dryden@gmail.com>  
**To:** ben.steffen@maryland.gov  
**Date Sent:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 10:38:21 AM GMT-04:00  
**Date Received:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 10:38:33 AM GMT-04:00

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Mr. Steffen,

I am a current resident in the City of Havre de Grace writing in opposition to the consideration of closure of the Harford Memorial Hospital currently on the April 16, 2020 meeting agenda.

My family has had to use the emergency rooms at both Harford Memorial and Upper Chesapeake Medical Center multiple times over the course of the past 10 years. We have always found the providers and staff attentive but we have been appalled at the ridiculously long wait times to be seen by staff and the even longer wait times for critical equipment such as ultrasound machines and CAT scans to become available. In April of 2019, one month postpartum, I was treated for a suspected blood clot on a bed in the hallway of the ER due to lack of beds. Our health care system in Harford County can't support patient load during normal operations, reducing health care services during the current state of our state and nation is absurd. The 'freestanding medical facility' as proposed won't the needs of the community as well as a full-service hospital.

Respectfully,

Lisa Dryden

**Subject:** Opposing Closure of Harford Memorial Hospital  
**From:** Michael Peck <mpeck1@gmail.com>  
**To:** ben.steffen@maryland.gov  
**Date Sent:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 10:16:36 AM GMT-04:00  
**Date Received:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 10:16:49 AM GMT-04:00

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Mr. Steffen,

I am a resident of the City of Havre de Grace writing in opposition to the consideration of closure of Harford Memorial Hospital on the April 16, 2020 meeting agenda.

In my family's visits over the years to both Harford Memorial Hospital in Havre de Grace and Upper Chesapeake Medical Center in Bel Air, every individual healthcare provider has been wonderful, but we have frequently faced long wait times and overcrowding. The idea of reducing the health care services available to the region was absurd before, and is even more absurd given the current crisis facing our state, nation, and world. A "freestanding medical facility" will not meet the needs of the community the same way as a full service hospital.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Michael Peck

**Subject:** Harford Memorial Closure  
**From:** Jen Merkel <jmjr4all@gmail.com>  
**To:** Ben.steffen@maryland.gov  
**Date Sent:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 9:26:29 AM GMT-04:00  
**Date Received:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 9:26:56 AM GMT-04:00

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Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed, and likely impending, closure of the hospital in the city of Havre de Grace, Harford Memorial.

This has been something that our family has been opposed to for some time, but now I feel compelled to write to you because I believe that this is an unwise decision, not just at this time, but for the future.

Our family has been a part of the Havre de Grace community for over twenty years. We have needed that hospital and benefitted from the care offered there on numerous occasions. My husband was treated there for a life threatening condition and the doctors and staff saved his life. He has had many surgeries there and we have always been treated with the utmost professionalism and personal care.

I have had experience with Upper Chesapeake, Bel Air, and it is not the same. It is very system, and not patient, oriented in my opinion. I know that HMH is also a part of the University of Maryland Health Care system, but the service and the environment, between the two hospitals, is very different.

On numerous occasions this hospital has been there for the people of Harford County and, while I know that it would require a tremendous amount of money to bring it up to standard, I believe that it is still a key location for the distribution of healthcare.

I have spoken to numerous doctors, staff and my state delegate, Mary Ann Lisanti, and I know that I am not alone in my sense of urgency in this matter.

Please consider removing this point of discussion from your consideration, for at least the foreseeable future. Let us get our bearings in the new landscape that we are facing in our communities due to the COVID-19 crisis. Now is not the time to be shaking up the system.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Merkel  
Havre de Grace, MD  
410 776 8841

**Subject:** Harford Memorial Hospital Agenda Item  
**From:** Danielle Wolfe <daniellelwolfe@gmail.com>  
**To:** "ben.steffen@maryland.gov" <ben.steffen@maryland.gov>  
**Date Sent:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 9:06:19 AM GMT-04:00  
**Date Received:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 9:06:30 AM GMT-04:00

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Good evening Commissioner,

I am writing to you as a citizen of Havre de Grace in Harford County, Maryland to respectfully ask that you remove item 5 from your agenda for April 16, 2020. Specifically, this relates to the closure of Harford Memorial Hospital and its replacement with a freestanding facility which will not provide the same level of care, particularly for acutely ill patients.

To consider furthering the process of this already deeply concerning decision during the current pandemic does an enormous disservice to the citizens of Harford and surrounding counties. We deserve access to adequate health care, and now more than ever should be seeking to increase the ability to serve the population. Again, in the interest of public health, I request that you remove this topic from the agenda.

Thank you,  
Danielle Wolfe

**Subject:** Harford Memorial  
**From:** Jason Robertson <jasonr@havredegracemd.com>  
**To:** ben.steffen@maryland.gov  
**Date Sent:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 9:00:59 AM GMT-04:00  
**Date Received:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 9:01:11 AM GMT-04:00

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Hello Mr. Steffen,

We in Havre de Grace, and much of Harford County, are truly concerned about the closure of Harford Memorial; especially that such a thing might be considered during a global pandemic. During normal operations, under normal circumstances, one only needs to view the wait times to see how often both hospitals in Harford County are in the red. Meaning, if anything, we need more patient beds in this county, and more emergency services, not fewer.

The county has been growing at a rather steady pace. Havre de Grace has grown exponentially, so much so that we're facing exceeding capacity at one of our elementary schools.

I implore the Commission to please consider agenda item number 5, with the impact on the local community in mind.

Thank you,  
Jason Robertson  
HdG City Council

**Subject:** The closing of Harford Memorial Hospital  
**From:** Monica Saunders <saunders.monica.h@gmail.com>  
**To:** ben.steffen@maryland.gov  
**Date Sent:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 1:08:46 AM GMT-04:00  
**Date Received:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 1:08:50 AM GMT-04:00

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Hi Ben,

I wanted to express my concern about the upcoming April 16th meeting in which the closing of Harford Memorial Hospital will be put to a vote. This action should not be discussed at this moment in time. We are in the midst of a pandemic and Harford Memorial is crucial to the area in helping to meet the needs of many that fall victim to Covid 19. I respectfully ask that the vote on Harford memorial Hospital be tabled and that the citizens of Harford county be placed as priority in regards to fighting this pandemic.

Best,  
Monica Saunders

Sent from my iPad

**Subject:** Harford Memorial Hospital  
**From:** Linda Borneman <LLBorneman@comcast.net>  
**To:** ben.steffen@maryland.gov  
**Date Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2020 9:24:02 PM GMT-04:00  
**Date Received:** Friday, April 10, 2020 9:24:04 PM GMT-04:00

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Dear Mr. Steffen,

I am a life-long resident of Havre de Grace, Maryland and understand that next week, April 16, the Maryland Health Care Commission will be voting on University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health Care System's application to shut down Harford Memorial Hospital and replace it with a Free Standing Medical Facility.

I fervently urge you to remove this item from your agenda in general, but more importantly now, in light of the pandemic that has stricken the country. As a resident of Havre de Grace, we have received excellent medical attention from Harford Memorial Hospital with emergency services, especially but also for elective surgery, acute care and childbirth.

My concern is that a free standing medical facility cannot provide acute care, such as required to treat patients with COVID-19 and it would only provide limited emergency services. Residents of HdG being transported to Upper Chesapeake Health Care in Bel Air, could easily die enroute to the hospital during the typical 30-40 minute ride. As you well know, with heart attacks, every second counts. Also Harford Memorial is heavily used by Perryville, Cecil County residents, since the only other option for them is another 30 minute ride to Elkton, MD.

Considering that Covid-19 is about to peak in Maryland, wouldn't it be prudent to put this issue on the back burner, in order to not lose more lives and/or overload the Bel Air campus or Baltimore County hospitals? It makes perfect sense to not make any closures of medical facilities at least until the Covid-19 cases are clearly in dramatic decline. Anything less is reckless, in my opinion.

Please give my urgent request serious consideration. It could spell success or calamity to our community during this challenging time.

Respectfully,  
Linda L. Borneman  
443-243-5649

**Subject:** Harford Memorial Hospital  
**From:** KRISTEN <kristencypher1414@comcast.net>  
**To:** ben.steffen@maryland.gov  
**Date Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2020 8:51:29 PM GMT-04:00  
**Date Received:** Friday, April 10, 2020 8:51:33 PM GMT-04:00

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Dear Mr. Steffen,

I just read this letter. I live in Havre de Grace and have for 53 years and so has my family. Now, I know that does not matter at all when April 16, 2020 comes along. With that being said, what does matter is how in the world is UMUC hospital going to handle every sick person that catches COVID-19? I'll tell you exactly how, because I have dear friends on the front lines. They are not going to be able to handle it. More people will die and more people will stay sick. I'm not going to ramble on and on about this situation because I think everyone is smart enough to know the impact it will have if we lose our Hospital. Be a decent human being and make the best possible decision given the current facts about this virus.

Sincerely,

Kristen Cypher

The City of Havre de Grace learned today that next week, April 16, the Maryland Health Care Commission will be voting on University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health Care System's application to shut down Harford Memorial Hospital and replace it with a Free Standing Medical Facility. A Free Standing Medical Facility is not equipped to provide acute care, such as is required to treat patients with COVID-19 and provides limited emergency services.

"I am respectfully requesting Governor Hogan to order the MHCC to remove this item from their April 16th agenda. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the healthcare system model around our country, to say the least. I believe it is prudent that we hold off on such paramount decisions until this pandemic has subsided, and a future path forward can be made with greater clarity and knowledge," stated Mayor Martin upon gaining knowledge of the upcoming meeting of the Maryland Health Care Commission.

We encourage everyone to email Ben Steffen, Director of the Maryland Health Care Commission at Ben.steffen@maryland.gov, and voice your opinion and demand the commission remove this item (item 5) from their April 16, 2020 agenda.

[https://havredegracemd.gov/app/uploads/2020/04/system\\_notification@havredegracemd.com\\_20200410\\_163029-1.pdf](https://havredegracemd.gov/app/uploads/2020/04/system_notification@havredegracemd.com_20200410_163029-1.pdf)

Sent from Xfinity Connect App

**Subject:** Harford Memorial Hospital in Havre de Grace Maryland  
**From:** DIANN C HARMON <diann9898@yahoo.com>  
**To:** "Ben.steffen@maryland.gov" <Ben.steffen@maryland.gov>  
**Date Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2020 8:47:22 PM GMT-04:00  
**Date Received:** Friday, April 10, 2020 8:47:27 PM GMT-04:00

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Dear Mr. Ben Steffen:

Heard that Harford Memorial Hospital is going to close their doors. It is essential to have Bel Air, Aberdeen and Havre de Grace facilities open. Bel Air is extremely busy in a normal life and can't handle the need of Harford County residents.

Please consider keeping Havre de Grace open by either talking to current owners or find another owner.

I was born at the Havre Grace hospital in 1962. I still live in Edgewood and use Havre de Grace hospital.

Sincerely,

Diann C. Harmon  
601 Charwood Court Edgewood MD 21040

**Subject:** Harford Memorial Hospital  
**From:** Renee Stratton <reneestratton@gmail.com>  
**To:** Paul Stratton <PRStratton@gmail.com>, "ben.steffen@maryland.gov" <ben.steffen@maryland.gov>  
**Date Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2020 8:42:21 PM GMT-04:00  
**Date Received:** Friday, April 10, 2020 8:42:33 PM GMT-04:00

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I'd like to request that the commission remove item 5 from your April 16, 2020 agenda. Harford Memorial Hospital serves so many in our community and employs many as well. This pandemic makes it ever more clear that these beds are so needed. It would be detrimental to our county to be down to one single hospital with a 15 bed icu. We need it now more than ever and healthcare is never the place to cut corners.

Regards,  
Renee Stratton

[https://havredegracemd.gov/app/uploads/2020/04/system\\_notification@havredegracemd.com\\_20200410\\_163029-1.pdf](https://havredegracemd.gov/app/uploads/2020/04/system_notification@havredegracemd.com_20200410_163029-1.pdf)

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Renee Stratton

**Subject:** Harford Memorial  
**From:** Nick Rockey <rockey0417@gmail.com>  
**To:** ben.steffen@maryland.gov  
**Date Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2020 8:02:32 PM GMT-04:00  
**Date Received:** Friday, April 10, 2020 8:02:36 PM GMT-04:00

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Are you guys out of your minds? Remove Item 5 from the Maryland Healthcare Commission's scheduled meeting April 16th, 2020.

As a healthcare provider and resident I can definitively state a free standing ED in place of Harford Memorial is not a smart move, the free standing ED's limited inpatient capability will quickly be overwhelmed and fall on Upper Chesapeake, which is a small 200 bed hospital with no known plans of expansion, this will likely result in patients being transported well into Franklin Square and other nearby facilities as I predict UCMC will remain on a near capacity or re route status as they begin to receive all of what would have been HMH's inpatients. This has been frequently observed by EMS and ED professionals long before discussion of closing Harford was even made public. Harford County's population is rapidly increasing from a variety of factors, and at present shows no signs of slowing as people move away from Baltimore county and city, and other locations to call Harford home.

Moreover, the decision to attempt to hold this vote in the midst of a global pandemic that has been taxing healthcare systems beyond their max is.... unprofessional at best, gravely disconcerting and borderline treasonous at worst to the citizens of Havre De Grace and the communities HMH serves such as most of Darlington, Level, Aberdeen, Perryville, Port Deposit and Conowingo.

Upper Chesapeake has had to turn their IMC into an ICU as their main ICU has overflowed, and are in progress standing up a THIRD ICU elsewhere in the hospital, imagine how much worse it would be if HMH was closed and UCMC was left basically alone to bear the weight of this emergency.

Nicholas Rockey  
**NREMT-B**  
(443) 752-0078

**Subject:** Harford Memorial Hospital , Agenda item , April 16 , 2020

**From:** David Barker <dawoofman@gmail.com>

**To:** Ben.steffen@maryland.gov

**Date Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2020 7:49:34 PM GMT-04:00

**Date Received:** Friday, April 10, 2020 7:49:46 PM GMT-04:00

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Please remove Harford Memorial Hospital from the agenda for the 16th , Item # 5 . I have many family members who depend on that hospital , some with limited means of transportation to other facilities . The Coronavirus pandemic has shown us the value of hospital beds . The loss of jobs would also be untimely . We are pleading with you .

Kind regards ,

David L. Barker

**Subject:** Harve de Grace Hospital  
**From:** jhimes525 <jhimes525@gmail.com>  
**To:** ben.steffen@maryland.gov  
**Date Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2020 7:37:19 PM GMT-04:00  
**Date Received:** Friday, April 10, 2020 7:37:21 PM GMT-04:00

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Today I learned that next week, April 16, the Maryland Health Care Commission will be voting on University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health Care System's application to shut down Harford Memorial Hospital and replace it with a Free Standing Medical Facility. Please do not allow this. As a resident of the town I feel that a Free Standing Medical Facility is not equipped to provide acute care, such as is required to treat patients with COVID-19 and provides limited emergency services.

Please remove this from the agenda. Our town and other surrounding communities are in need of this hospital especially during the epidemic.

Thank you

Jessica Himes

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Note10, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

**Subject:** Harford Memorial Hospital  
**From:** DEBORAH PETZ <deborah218@yahoo.com>  
**To:** "Ben.steffen@maryland.gov" <Ben.steffen@maryland.gov>  
**Date Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2020 7:12:28 PM GMT-04:00  
**Date Received:** Friday, April 10, 2020 7:12:34 PM GMT-04:00

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Dear Ben,

In light of this horrific pandemic that has plagued this country, I would hope that the closure of this community hospital would permanently be removed from any agenda that would wish to reduce or eliminate the services so desperately need here in Harford County Maryland. For the safety of all the citizens in and around Harford County please reconsider the replacement of this hospital with a downgraded freestanding facility that doesn't even offer acute care services!! As Harford county has been moved to one of the greater Baltimore area hot spots for the COVID 19, we at least have the comfort of knowing we have 2 facilities that can house intensive care patients. According to my daughter that works for Upper Chesapeake in Bel Air (who had 6 COVID 19 patients on Wednesday the 8th of April) the hospital is at capacity with very ill patients in the intensive care, the step down intensive care and the floor that is housing only COVID 19 patients. Thank heavens no changes have occurred to date or this county would have been in way over their heads!!

Thank you kindly for your time,

***Deborah L. Petz***

**Subject:** Remove the vote on Harford Memorial Hospitals  
**From:** Lynn Jurkowski <lynnmj2021@gmail.com>  
**To:** "ben.steffen@Maryland.gov" <ben.steffen@maryland.gov>  
**Date Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2020 6:34:51 PM GMT-04:00  
**Date Received:** Friday, April 10, 2020 6:35:03 PM GMT-04:00

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If we learned nothing else from this pandemic we learned shuttering hospitals puts our citizens at even greater risk. Hospital capacity across the country cannot bear the burden of aging citizens or current and future health crises. As a citizen of Havre de Grace I strongly request you remove the vote on shuttering Harford Memorial Hospital and replacing it with a free standing medical facility from the April 16 agenda. Havre de Grace's population has grown exponentially in the last 10 years. BRAC brought thousands of workers to Maryland and the average age of that population alone is 55+. A majority moved to Havre de Grace. Closing Harford Memorial was always a cost cutting measure for Upper Chesapeake and never in the best interests of the citizens. From a political perspective voting on shutting a hospital during a pandemic won't play well in the news. Respectfully, Lynn Jurkowski 740 Monarchos Drive MD 21078

**Subject:** STOP Harford Memorial Hospital Closure  
**From:** "Diane E. Smith" <deshdg@aol.com>  
**To:** ben.steffen@maryland.gov  
**Date Sent:** Thu, 16 Apr 2020 14:35:37 +0000 (UTC)  
**Date Received:** Thu, 16 Apr 2020 07:35:41 -0700 (PDT)

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April 16, 2020

Maryland Health Care Commission  
Ben Steffen, Executive Director

Good Morning Mr. Steffen:

In light of the current state of the Covid-19 pandemic, the surge of critically ill and the unknown consequences this pandemic may have on the physical structure of health care delivery I am opposed to the current review of UM UHC's certificate of need application at this time. This hospital has been a place of heroes consisting of doctors, nurses and staff who are committed to serving others and Havre de Grace.

Thank You,  
Diane E. Smith  
655 Commerce Street  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078  
302-545-5009 (Mobile)

**Subject:** Harford Memorial Hospital  
**From:** Jim Ringsaker <jimr@havredegracemd.com>  
**To:** "ben.steffen@maryland.gov" <ben.steffen@maryland.gov>  
**Date Sent:** Thu, 16 Apr 2020 08:39:09 -0400  
**Date Received:** Thu, 16 Apr 2020 05:39:21 -0700 (PDT)

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Mr Steffen,

Sir, I write to you as both a concerned citizen and as an elected representative for the City of Havre de Grace. I understand the need to adapt to the ever changing world of healthcare, but I believe the closing of Harford Memorial Hospital is extremely short sighted.

Mr. Sheldon and Upper Chesapeake claim the City is using the current global pandemic to push a political agenda. The city isn't using the Coronavirus to advance an agenda, UMMS and Upper Chesapeake are using the current state of affairs to hide in the shadows while they conduct their pre-decided business.

Why are any political commissions meeting right now? How is a political commission considered essential? The city is considered an interested party, why wasn't the city notified of the pending agenda instead of stumbling across the agenda by chance?

Why, when we're dealing with the worst health crisis of our lifetime, can't we take a step back and re-evaluate the need for a second hospital in the county? Why don't we wait to see the impact of the coronavirus before we rush to close the hospital? Because Upper Chesapeake knows there will be an after action review of our healthcare system once this all blows over so they need to ram it through as soon as possible!

New York was the first state to establish the "certificate of need" process for hospitals we have now and look at the dire situation they're in at the moment.

I respectfully request the vote to allow the closing of Harford Memorial Hospital be tabled until a more appropriate time, pending a resolution of the current healthcare crisis.

Sincerely,  
Jim Ringsaker  
Havre de Grace City Council

**Subject:** Re: Harford Memorial Hospital  
**From:** David Martin <davidm@havredegracemd.com>  
**To:** JOHN CORRERI <blueliner4@verizon.net>  
**Cc:** ben.steffen@maryland.gov, Bill Martin <billm@havredegracemd.com>, Cassandra Boyer <casib@havredegracemd.com>, Carolyn Zinner <carolynz@havredegracemd.com>, David Glenn <davidg@havredegracemd.com>, Steve Johnson <stevejohnson21001@gmail.com>, Steve Gamatoria <steveg@havredegracemd.com>, Jim Ringsaker <jimr@havredegracemd.com>, Jason Robertson <jasonr@havredegracemd.com>  
**Date Sent:** Thu, 16 Apr 2020 07:49:09 -0400  
**Date Received:** Thu, 16 Apr 2020 04:49:21 -0700 (PDT)

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Thank you, that means a lot.

On Thu, Apr 16, 2020, 06:44 JOHN CORRERI <[blueliner4@verizon.net](mailto:blueliner4@verizon.net)> wrote:

Good morning, Ben ,

I heard the Governor tell us that he sees a light at the end of the tunnel, that is good to hear but my Father always taught me that you do see that light but the fact of the matter is that you are STILL IN THE TUNNEL.

" LET OUR VOICES BE HEARD....SAVE OUR HOSPITAL " (HARFORD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL )

Sincerely,

JOHN P. CORRERI jr.

Former Mayor of Havre de Grace

**Subject:** Harford Memorial Hospital  
**From:** David Glenn <davidg@havredegracemd.com>  
**To:** ben.steffen@maryland.gov  
**Cc:** David Glenn <davidg@havredegracemd.com>  
**Date Sent:** Thu, 16 Apr 2020 07:46:00 -0400  
**Date Received:** Thu, 16 Apr 2020 04:46:13 -0700 (PDT)

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Ben

Today is a big day.

I know a lot of people have weighed in over the past week. My key concern is that I do not want leadership to make a premature decision. Lyle Shelton has made his case for moving forward, but that was all based on arguments prior to COVID-19. During the past month, we as a country have faced enormous challenges. Again, I truly feel that before "any" decision is made regarding the future of healthcare facilities in Harford County or the State of Maryland, we need to get through this crisis, conduct a comprehensive review of everything that took place and generate an after action review that will shape the path forward for healthcare across the state. People are our most valuable resource and we must ensure we look out for "their" best interests. I realize that the closure of Harford Memorial Hospital is still 2+ years away, but you have to ask yourself, given the recent crisis, is a Free Standing Medical Facility in the best interests of all concern. Is it truly the right decision moving forward. Until that comprehensive review is conducted we don't know that answer. So I encourage you to do the right thing. Delay any decision about healthcare facilities in Harford County until we have all the supporting documentation to make that informed decision. Our focus must be on putting together a strategy that generates a system that will ensure the best healthcare possible for the people I represent.

They are counting on you to do the right thing. To make any decision today to move forward with a Free Standing Medical Facility without the supporting documentation from COVID-19 would be major oversight.

Dave Glenn  
President  
Havre de Grace City Council

**Subject:** Harford Memorial Hospital

**From:** JOHN CORRERI <blueliner4@verizon.net>

**To:** "ben.steffen@maryland.gov" <ben.steffen@maryland.gov>

**Cc:** Bill Martin <billm@havredegracemd.com>, Cassandra Boyer <casib@havredegracemd.com>, Carolyn Zinner <carolynz@havredegracemd.com>, David Glenn <davidg@havredegracemd.com>, David Martin <davidm@havredegracemd.com>, Steve Johnson <stevejohnson21001@gmail.com>, Steve Gamatoria <steveg@havredegracemd.com>, Jim Ringsaker <jimr@havredegracemd.com>, Jason Robertson <jasonr@havredegracemd.com>

**Date Sent:** Thu, 16 Apr 2020 10:43:45 +0000 (UTC)

**Date Received:** Thu, 16 Apr 2020 03:44:06 -0700 (PDT)

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Good morning, Ben ,

I heard the Governor tell us that he sees a light at the end of the tunnel, that is good to hear but my Father always taught me that you do see that light but the fact of the matter is that you are STILL IN THE TUNNEL.

" LET OUR VOICES BE HEARD....SAVE OUR HOSPITAL " (HARFORD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL )

Sincerely,

JOHN P. CORRERI jr.

Former Mayor of Havre de Grace

**Subject:** Harford Memorial Hospital  
**From:** michele duvall <jld4231@gmail.com>  
**To:** ben.steffen@maryland.gov  
**Date Sent:** Wed, 15 Apr 2020 21:35:26 -0400  
**Date Received:** Wed, 15 Apr 2020 18:35:38 -0700 (PDT)

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Please remove the three UM UCH applications from the April 16th agenda and do not place them on a future agenda until we as a nation, a State, and a local community have had the opportunity to evaluate this pandemic, the financial impacts, and the effects it has had on healthcare. Only at that time can the MHCC make an informed decision regarding the future of healthcare delivery in Harford County.

As a born and raised resident of Harford County for 49 years I ask you to think of the impact this would have on the community during an already stressful and uncertain time.

I was born at, delivered my child worked as a nursing student at Harford Memorial and resided in Havre de Grace for 9 years.

I respectfully request you to consider.

Sincerely,

Michele Duvall  
[jld4231@gmail.com](mailto:jld4231@gmail.com)  
4109379874

**Subject:** Do not close Hartford Memorial hospital  
**From:** Mary Rasa <maryhistorymd@gmail.com>  
**To:** Ben.steffen@maryland.gov  
**Date Sent:** Wed, 15 Apr 2020 18:15:01 -0400  
**Date Received:** Wed, 15 Apr 2020 15:15:15 -0700 (PDT)

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Hi,

I know that Harford Memorial is old and antiquated. I know being in downtown is not the best location. I support a new building even in Aberdeen. I do not support making a stand alone ER. This area has people that deserve a hospital if needed. I live in Cecil County. In an emergency I deserve a hospital that can care for me. What university of Maryland is proposing does not. A hospital with beds for sick people is not an unusual concept. Bel Air is extremely far away in traffic. Many will die with this plan  
This plan is putting my life at risk. Do not approve it.

**Subject:** Request to Remove Item 5 from April 16 MHCC Agenda  
**From:** Alex Hegeman <ahegem1@gmail.com>  
**To:** Ben.steffen@maryland.gov  
**Date Sent:** Wed, 15 Apr 2020 14:55:13 -0400  
**Date Received:** Wed, 15 Apr 2020 11:55:25 -0700 (PDT)

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Mr. Steffen,

As a Harford County resident, I am writing to request that the MHCC remove Item 5 from its April 16 agenda - University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health Care System's application to shut down Harford Memorial Hospital (HMH) and replace it with a freestanding medical facility (FMF).

I believe moving forward with the proposal at this time would not be in the best interest of Harford County residents. This is particularly true for those residents within the surrounding areas of HMH who rely on the hospital for acute care, which the proposed FMF would not be equipped to provide. The removal of HMH may leave these patients vulnerable and unable to easily access the care they need.

Please consider postponing consideration of Item 5 until a more careful analysis can be conducted on the potential effects to the community – both during the current health crisis and beyond.

Thank you for your consideration,

Alex Hegeman

2450 Cool Spring Rd

Bel Air, MD 21015

**Subject:** FW: UM HMH  
**From:** "Pollak M.D., Andrew" <Apollak@som.umaryland.edu>  
**To:** "Ben Steffen -DHMH- (ben.steffen@maryland.gov)" <ben.steffen@maryland.gov>  
**Date Sent:** Wed, 15 Apr 2020 15:32:22 +0000  
**Date Received:** Wed, 15 Apr 2020 08:32:25 -0700 (PDT)  
**Attachments:** winmail.dat

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FYI -

From: Sandy Worthington <sworthington27@aol.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 11:27 AM  
To: Pollak M.D., Andrew <Apollak@som.umaryland.edu>  
Subject: UM HMH

Hello Dr. Pollak,

I am a lifelong Harford County resident. I was born at Harford Memorial Hospital. I am also a Registered Nurse who has worked at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore for over 26 years. I have always been opposed to the decision to close UM Harford Memorial Hospital. The idea of closing it and opening a Freestanding Medical Facility with only Emergency/Observation beds and Behavioral Health beds is not in the best interest of the residents of Harford County or the State of Maryland.

The state of Maryland is re-opening closed hospitals and has built emergency field hospitals. UMMC is partnering with the Lord Baltimore Hotel to place patients there during the "surge".

We are amidst one of the worst global health crises we have ever faced, and the Maryland Health Care Commission wants to hold a vote to determine the closure of one of the only two hospitals in Harford County, Maryland. This vote could make our worst fears a reality at the worst possible time.

I am aware that they will be asking for a Certificate of Need to put additional beds at the UM Upper Chesapeake Medical Center. Considering that we are in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the surge in critically ill patients that Maryland hospitals are experiencing, I feel that the actions on changing the Certificate of Need should be placed on hold. The closing of 1 of the 2 hospitals in Harford County should be deferred until after this pandemic is over. The United States has fast learned that we do not have enough ICU beds. We do not have enough negative pressure rooms for patients to be on isolation. We are canceling surgeries so that we can have beds and ventilators available for the COVID-19 patients. Harford County needs to keep a second freestanding, full service hospital. We do not need a glorified Emergency Room. The number of patients that needs Behavioral Health is sky-rocketing. Patients sit in the hospital for days to weeks awaiting a bed at an Inpatient Psych facility. We, as a Nation, need to learn from this COVID-19 pandemic, and make improvements in our Healthcare system so that we are better prepared in the event of another pandemic such as this one.

Please re-consider keeping Harford Memorial Hospital as a full service hospital. At the very least, please hold off on making any rash decisions at this time.

Thank you kindly for your time.

Sincerely,

Sandra Worthington  
305 Avatar Ct.  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078<x-apple-data-detectors://0/1>

Sent from my iPhone

**Subject:** Please remove Item 5 from your April 16 Agenda  
**From:** Wanda Boker <wandaboker@gmail.com>  
**To:** Ben.steffen@maryland.gov  
**Date Sent:** Wed, 15 Apr 2020 11:17:41 -0400  
**Date Received:** Wed, 15 Apr 2020 08:17:55 -0700 (PDT)

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Director of the Maryland Health Care Commission Ben Steffen;

Healthcare in Maryland must prioritize accessible and quality healthcare for people over the profits of stockholders. If there is anything constructive coming out of the Covid-19 pandemic it's the opportunity to address the undeniable dangers of our dysfunctional healthcare system which simply wasn't designed to serve all people who need it.

We are in the middle of a health pandemic, already struggling with a lack of PPE, equipment, medical staff and hospital beds to meet our rising needs. It is inconceivable that the MHCC plans to waste precious time even discussing the closure of one of only two hospitals in Harford County during this moment of crisis.

As a citizen of Havre de Grace I implore you to postpone any discussion of closure until we have gotten through this pandemic and have a comprehensive lessons-learned study to asses how to responsibly strengthen our state's health care preparedness for the next health crisis, including how best to serve the people of Havre de Grace and surrounding areas who rely on our local hospital.

Sincerely,  
Wanda Boker

**Subject:** Urgent Request  
**From:** Resa Laird <resal@havredegracemd.com>  
**To:** ben.steffen@maryland.gov  
**Date Sent:** Wed, 15 Apr 2020 10:25:02 -0400  
**Date Received:** Wed, 15 Apr 2020 07:25:16 -0700 (PDT)  
**Attachments:** Mayor Martin's Letter to Ben Steffen.pdf,Governor Hogan.pdf,Letter to HC Del. Exec. CC.pdf

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Dear Mr. Steffen,

I've attached three very important letters from Mayor Martin addressing a very urgent matter.

The Mayor respectfully requests your consideration.

With respect,

Resa Laird  
Executive Assistant to the Mayor  
410-939-1800 x 1138  
[Resal@havredegracemd.com](mailto:Resal@havredegracemd.com)



# CITY OF HAVRE DE GRACE

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

**William T. Martin**

April 15, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Steffen,

I hope this letter finds you well.

It is my understanding that the University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health's (UM UCH) application for a certificate of need, an exemption request, and a consolidation application are on the agenda for the Maryland Health Care Commission's (MHCC) next meeting to be held on April 16, 2020. Those applications include the closure of University of Maryland Harford Memorial Hospital (UM HMH) and the construction of a free-standing medical facility (FMF) in Aberdeen, the transfer of the licensed beds from UM HMH to University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Medical Center (UM UCH), and the construction of a psychiatric hospital in Aberdeen.

The intent of this letter is not to address the merits of the various UM UCH applications; my administration has provided many documents to the MHCC regarding the City's position on these projects in the past. I desire to bring to your attention my concerns regarding the timing of the deliberation of these applications.

The world, our nation, and the great State of Maryland are currently in the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic. This pandemic is costing trillions of dollars on the federal level, and billions of dollars at the State level. Governor Hogan announced that the State's rainy-day fund may very well be depleted by the time this pandemic is over and his administration will likely not approve any bills which call for more spending. Clearly, the future financial stability of our great State, at this current time, is in question.

The various plans that UM UCH have proffered in their three applications cost hundreds of millions of dollars (\$62,991,120 for the psychiatric hospital, \$84,406,807 for the closure and transfer of UM HMH licensed beds, and \$56,665,400 for the construction of the FMF). Based on the information contained within the various UM UCH applications, these projects will be financed predominantly with debt. In the MHCC request for completeness information on modified application dated November 19, 2019 regarding the psychiatric hospital application, the MHCC asked, "Given the substantial profits and cash reserves, the applicant

proposes to fund this project entirely through borrowing.” Please explain why this is financially prudent and beneficial to the citizens of Maryland. If the MHCC had concern with UM UCH borrowing this volume of money and the potential negative effects it would have on the citizens of Maryland before the State was in financial straits, the prudent course of action, considering the dire financial position the State of Maryland is in, is for the MHCC to postpone any decisions regarding the various UM UCH applications until such time after the COVID-19 pandemic is over and the true financial picture of the State of Maryland is known. At that time and only that time, will the MHCC truly be able to understand the impact the borrowing of this much debt will have on the citizens of Maryland.

While I understand that if the commission approves the various UM UCH applications, the actual closure of UM HMH will not occur for a couple of years, I have great concern with deciding the fate of any acute care facility during a pandemic. The fact is that none of us know what things will be like after the pandemic has passed; however, what we do know is things will be different. Once this crisis has passed, there will be after-action reports completed at the local, State, and Federal level to determine what worked well, and what courses of action need to be taken in order to better prepare ourselves in the future. As such, the topic of healthcare and the delivery of that healthcare to the community will inevitably be at the forefront of these changes. Making a decision now regarding the closure or construction of any healthcare facility will have long-lasting and irreversible effects. Because of the certificate of need law in the State of Maryland, the decisions of the MHCC on April 16, 2020 will cement the healthcare delivery model in Harford County before the pandemic is over and before any best practices and recommendations for change could ever be discussed or considered. It is likely that the optimal healthcare delivery model which serves the best interests of the citizens of Maryland in general, and Harford County specifically, will change in light of the pandemic. If the MHCC approves the various applications during this pandemic, the fate of healthcare in Harford County is sealed and the ability to benefit from analyzing this pandemic and better preparing for the future is lost. Ultimately the citizens are left to face the consequences of a decision which was made prematurely. It is simply not in the best interest of the citizens of Maryland and Harford County for the MHCC to take action on the UM UCH applications before the MHCC, State of Maryland, and the Country has had an opportunity to learn from this COVID-19 pandemic experience.

Additionally, I find it disheartening that the MHCC has publicly posted documents, dated April 16, 2020, which already contain final order approval letters in them for all three UM UCH applications. While I understand that the MHCC staff must proffer a recommendation to the commission regarding applications, I am dismayed that your recommendation documents are accompanied by letters of approval. This has sent the message to me and my constituents that a decision has already been made regarding the UM UCH applications before a formal vote of the MHCC has had an opportunity to take place.

For your consideration, and keeping consistent with the transparency of my administration, I have included letters I have sent to both Governor Hogan and our State legislators as well for your consideration.

Mr. Steffen, I implore you to remove the three UM UCH applications from the April 16<sup>th</sup> agenda and do not place them on a future agenda until we as a nation, a State, and a local community have had the opportunity to evaluate this pandemic, the financial impacts, and the effects it has had on healthcare. Only at that time can the MHCC make an informed decision regarding the future of healthcare delivery in our community.

Throughout the course of our lives we have moments like this: moments where doing the right thing feels difficult, where we are tested, and where our character is defined. This is one of your defining moments, Mr. Steffen! This is your opportunity to do what is right; I hope you find strength in knowing that delaying the review of the UMUCH applications today will create a better tomorrow for the citizens of Maryland.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William T. Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

William T. Martin

Mayor

City of Havre de Grace



# CITY OF HAVRE DE GRACE

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

**William T. Martin**

April 10, 2020

Hon. Lawrence J. Hogan  
Governor, State of Maryland  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1925

Dear Governor Hogan,

Since University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health (UM UCH) first announced its change of plans that it would no longer provide a new hospital to replace Harford Memorial Hospital (HMH), but rather construct a Free Standing Medical Facility (FMF) that would not provide acute care services or even full emergency care, the City of Havre de Grace has urged the rejection of this concept as inadequate and dangerous for the delivery of health care in Harford County. On numerous occasions, we have posed serious questions to the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) that remain unanswered.

Now, in the midst of a global pandemic, unbelievably and inexplicably, the MHCC has scheduled for action, on April 16, 2020 just six days from now, the review in full of all three UM UCH applications. Those applications include the closure of HMH and moving the licensed beds to Bel Air, the construction of a FMF in Aberdeen, and the construction of a psychiatric hospital in Aberdeen. Through the great work of your Administration, with the entire State desperately trying to increase the number of available hospital beds, and with HMH proving it has the ability to deliver essential critical care and expand that care on short notice, the MHCC's action on this matter is unacceptable.

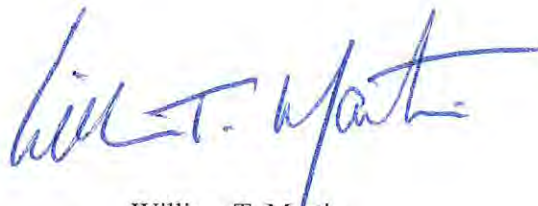
Considering the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic, the surge of critically ill patients both locally and on a national level, and the unknown consequences this pandemic may have on the physical structure of healthcare delivery going forward, the actions of the MHCC are shortsighted and irresponsible. The MHCC's stated mission is to "plan for health system needs, promote informed decision-making, increase accountability, and improve access in a rapidly changing healthcare environment by providing timely and accurate information on availability, cost, and quality of services to policy makers, purchasers, providers and the public." The review of the UM UCH's certificate of need applications during a pandemic and before the peak of the crisis has even hit our State, flies in the face of every goal the MHCC's stated mission seeks to accomplish. As such, it is necessary for legislators to immediately step in and right this wrong before it is too late.

In a recent Washington Post report, Dr. David Marcozzi, a professor and physician who is leading the COVID-19 response for UMMS, stated “[t]he health-care system across the country contracted as a result of trying to provide more efficient care . . . but if you contract the system, then when you have a surge, you are squeezed.” He added, “You don’t have lots of beds open and nurses waiting to provide care.” In addition, in a TIME report, CDC Director Dr. Robert Redfield stated that “If you look at hospital capacity right now, much of it is full, up to 95, 96, 97%, . . . So we really don’t have a lot of resilience in the capacity of our health system.”

How in the world are we still considering moving ahead with closing HMH, one of only two hospitals in Harford County, in the midst of a pandemic in a State that is among the 5 worst in the entire United States in the number of hospital beds available per citizen? The regional hospital system is an outdated model. It is time for a new vision of healthcare delivery – one that is community centered – that can provide acute care, but flexible enough to expand capacity as needs dictate, where rapid response from the local medical community is manageable and not a burden on medical providers and their families. Maryland has the opportunity to rise above the limitations of our current healthcare system and think outside the box.

We ask you to immediately intercede by Executive Order and stop this action, and to demand that any review of the UM UCH’s application be deferred until such time as the State of Maryland can revisit the criteria used for closing such a critical acute care facility in Harford County. Further, we seek a moratorium on the use of FMF’s as substitute emergency rooms, which provide no acute care capabilities, and cannot in most cases even treat Priority 1 and many Priority 2 patients that need immediate emergency care. The Maryland Healthcare Commission may decide to approve or reject UM UCH’s applications; however, we passionately argue that now, in the middle of a pandemic, is the wrong time to make such important and permanent decisions!

Thank you for putting the interests of our residents first!



William T. Martin  
Mayor



# CITY OF HAVRE DE GRACE

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

**William T. Martin**

April 10, 2020

Harford County Delegation District 7, 34 & 35  
Harford County Executive Barry Glassman  
Harford County Council Members

Honorable Ladies and Gentlemen,

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Now, in the midst of a global pandemic, unbelievably and inexplicably, the MHCC has scheduled for action, on April 16, 2020 just six days from now, the review in full of all three UM UCH applications. Those applications include the closure of HMH and moving the licensed beds to Bel Air, the construction of a FMF in Aberdeen, and the construction of a psychiatric hospital in Aberdeen. Through the great work of the Hogan Administration, with the entire State desperately trying to increase the number of available hospital beds, and with HMH proving it has the ability to deliver essential critical care and expand that care on short notice, the MHCC's action is unacceptable.

Considering the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic, the surge of critically ill patients both locally and on a national level, and the unknown consequences this pandemic may have on the physical structure of healthcare delivery going forward, the actions of the MHCC are shortsighted and irresponsible. The MHCC's stated mission is to "plan for health system needs, promote informed decision-making, increase accountability, and improve access in a rapidly changing health care environment by providing timely and accurate information on availability, cost, and quality of services to policy makers, purchasers, providers and the public." The review of the UM UCH's certificate of need applications during a pandemic and before the peak of the crisis has even hit our State flies in the face of every goal MHCC's stated mission seeks to accomplish. As such, it is necessary for legislators to immediately step in and right this wrong before it is too late.

In a recent Washington Post report, Dr. David Marcozzi, a professor and physician who is leading the COVID-19 response for UMMS, stated "[t]he health-care system across the country contracted as a

result of trying to provide more efficient care . . . but if you contract the system, then when you have a surge, you are squeezed.” He added, “You don’t have lots of beds open and nurses waiting to provide care.” In addition, in a TIME report, CDC Director Dr. Robert Redfield stated that “If you look at hospital capacity right now, much of it is full, up to 95, 96, 97%, . . . So we really don’t have a lot of resilience in the capacity of our health system.”

How in the world are we still considering moving ahead with closing HMH, one of only two hospitals in Harford County, in the midst of a pandemic in a State that is among the 5 worst in the entire USA in the number of hospital beds available per citizen? The regional hospital system is an outdated model. It is time for a new vision of health care delivery – one that is community centered – that can provide acute care, but flexible enough to expand capacity as needs dictate, where rapid response from the local medical community is manageable and not a burden on medical providers and their families. Maryland has the opportunity to rise above the limitations of our current health care system and think outside the box.

We ask you to immediately urge Governor Hogan to intercede by Executive Order and stop this action, and to demand that any review of the UM UCH application be deferred until such time as the State of Maryland can revisit the criteria used for closing such a critical acute care facility in Harford County. Further, we seek a moratorium on the use of FMF’s as substitute emergency rooms, which provide no acute care capabilities, and cannot in most cases even treat Priority 1 and many Priority 2 patients that need immediate emergency care. The Maryland Healthcare Commission may decide to approve or reject UM UCH’s applications; however, we passionately argue that now, in the middle of a pandemic, is the wrong time to make such important and permanent decisions!

Thank you for putting the interests of our residents first!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "William T. Martin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

William T. Martin  
Mayor

**Subject:** Discussion on closing Harford Memorial Hospital  
**From:** rochelle keen <rkeen17@msn.com>  
**To:** "ben.steffen@maryland.gov" <ben.steffen@maryland.gov>  
**Date Sent:** Wed, 15 Apr 2020 13:35:05 +0000  
**Date Received:** Wed, 15 Apr 2020 06:35:07 -0700 (PDT)

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I am writing to express deep concern and outrage that the discussion on closing HMH is proceeding at all much less in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a vital medical facility for the citizens of Havre de Grace and the surrounding area. Much of the elderly population including my own parents, aunts and uncles rely on the services of this hospital that is only 5-10 minutes from their home. It is a tremendous burden on them to have to travel even to Upper Chesapeake Medical Center in Bel Air for certain procedures.

I will echo the sentiment of Mayor Bill Martin in his letter to Governor Hogan. "We ask you to immediately intercede by Executive Order and stop this action, and to demand that any review of the UM UCH's application be deferred until such time as the state of Maryland can revisit the criteria used for closing such a critical acute care facility in Harford County," Martin wrote. "We passionately argue that now, in the middle of a pandemic, is the wrong time to make such important and permanent decisions!"

This is short sighted and ill thought out and should be stopped!!

Regards,

**Rochelle Keen**

Independent Technology Consulting  
mobile 717.989.2493  
[rkeen17@msn.com](mailto:rkeen17@msn.com)

Medical Device . Product Development . Clinical Trials . Marketing