

Kevin McDonald, Chief, Certificate of Need  
Maryland Health Care Commission  
4160 Patterson Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

**RE: Support for CON Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Southern Maryland, LLC**

Dear Mr. McDonald:

On behalf of the Prince George's County Council, in its capacity as the Prince George's County Board of Health, I am writing to express support for Encompass Health's Certificate of Need application to build a free-standing Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital in Bowie, Maryland.

The Board of Health has previously supported the building of the University of Maryland Capital Region Health – Prince George's Hospital Center (UM Prince George's) in Largo, Maryland and we look forward to its opening in 2021. However, Prince George's County currently lacks the necessary post-acute continuum of care that a rehabilitation hospital can offer for those patients who suffer from stroke, brain injuries, major trauma, hip fractures and other qualifying conditions. In fact, the entire Southern Maryland Health Planning Region presently has fewer inpatient rehabilitation beds than any other Health Planning Region in the State. Further, as a designated stroke center, a designated chest pain and STEMI (ST-elevation myocardial infarction) center, and the second busiest trauma center in the statewide trauma system, UM Prince George's must have an inpatient rehabilitation facility with which to partner. The citizens of Prince George's County currently have to travel long distances, often to the District of Columbia, to receive acute inpatient rehabilitative hospital care and Prince Georgians deserve to have these services provided closer to home so that physicians and caregivers can participate in patient recovery processes without the hardship of lengthy daily travel.

The importance of providing the patient and their family an opportunity to receive the intense, comprehensive rehabilitation therapies and nursing care, in a high level hospital such as Encompass Health, cannot be underestimated. Their advanced technologies and team of talented nurses, physical medicine and rehabilitation physicians, physical, occupational, and speech therapists provide clinical outcomes that surpass those in the industry. University of Maryland Capital Region Health – Prince George's Hospital Center's need, (as well as other acute care hospitals), for close, convenient, and collaborative post-acute care partners is critically important to foster the continuum of care necessary for those patients described above.

In addition to the economic benefits of providing health care related jobs and expertise, educational opportunities and tax revenues, the addition of an inpatient rehabilitation hospital will further expand the healthcare footprint in Prince George's County. As the Board of Health, our mission is to promote public health and access to quality, comprehensive health care for our residents. In so doing, we work with providers to facilitate the establishment of world class healthcare resources in Prince George's County.

Therefore, the Prince George's County Board of Health enthusiastically supports the technological advances and talent Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital (formerly known as HealthSouth) proposes to make available to the residents of Prince George's County. We strongly encourage the Maryland Health Care Commission to approve this important Certificate of Need application.

Sincerely,

Dannielle M. Glaros  
Chair