

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Chairman Derrick Leon Davis

Council Member, District 6

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr. Maryland Governor 100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. Senate President
State House, H-107
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Michael E. Busch Speaker of the House State House, H-101 100 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB 1198 – Prince George's County Regional Medical Center Act of 2017 – SUPPORT

Dear Governor Hogan, President Miller, and Speaker Busch:

This letter comes with much appreciation to the Maryland Senate, and the Maryland House of Delegates for all that has been done to secure adequate funding for the Prince George's County Regional Medical Center. We also take this time to ask our Governor to provide the same support.

During the past several years, Prince George's County has focused its efforts on working toward improving existing health services, increasing access to primary care, enhancing the County's overall health infrastructure, and ensuring a stable and reliable healthcare system for Prince George's County and Southern Maryland. In 2011, the State, Prince George's County, and Dimensions Healthcare System signed a partnership agreement to work toward stabilizing the healthcare system in Prince George's County. In 2012, the County devised three goals for the development of a healthcare system: (1) expand access to patient-centered primary care services within Prince George's County; (2) improve the health of all Prince George's County residents; (3) advance the healthcare industry's contribution to Prince George's County's economic development.

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The RAND Corporation published a startling report in 2009 that made establishment of a primary care system an urgent concern for Prince George's County. Based on the 2009 report on healthcare in Prince George's County, Prince Georgians are more likely to be uninsured and have higher mortality rates than neighboring Maryland jurisdictions. In addition, the County's residents reportedly suffered high rates of chronic conditions, there were social-economic disparities within the County; and, the County lacked limited primary care capacity. More importantly, the County lacks sufficient numbers of primary care physicians and safety net providers.

This Council believes that the impact of this new facility will benefit our community 'beyond the beyond.' Our plan will transform healthcare with a state-of-the-art teaching hospital and transform the County's economy with new businesses, and new jobs. Currently, a high number of Prince Georgians are traveling outside of the County for healthcare, which is not only unfair to our residents, but also serves as an impediment to economic development. Now is the time to protect our residents, and safeguard the State's investment. SB 1198 – Prince George's County Regional Medical Center Act of 2017 creates an additional measure to secure critical operating funds, which would allow the County's goals to improve healthcare for Prince Georgians to finally come to fruition.

Therefore, we thank you for your continued support of Prince George's County, and we look forward to seeing SB 1198 signed into law.

Respectfully,

Derrick L. Davis

Chair

cc:

Honorable Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor Prince George's County Delegation