

April 1, 2025

Montgomery County Council  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Council President Stewart and Council Members:

As the health systems serving Montgomery County, we are writing to express our appreciation for the County's continued commitment to investing in the local health care safety net and providing access to health services for residents who have low-incomes and no health insurance.

These public-private partnerships engage the local government, hospitals, safety-net clinics, private practices, and community-based organizations to address the health care needs of more than 30,000 vulnerable residents. Montgomery County's hospitals have proudly participated in the collaborative programs that form a health care safety net in our community. For many years we have invested in programs like Montgomery Cares, from pro-bono operating room time, to donated or low-cost ancillary services like labs or imaging, to hospital leaders as members of clinic boards of directors.

The COVID-19 outbreak underscored the importance of a strong health safety net, and we are fortunate that Montgomery County continues to have a structure in place to provide primary care to vulnerable and at-risk patients in need of health services that can be appropriately treated in primary care.

Even absent an outbreak, our hospital emergency departments are working to decrease patient wait times—wait times that affect all community members. A strong local safety net for primary care and other community-based services is a crucial tool in managing emergency department demand.

Therefore, we endorse the County Executive's proposed \$2.4 million in additional funding for the Montgomery Cares and Care for Kids programs to support safety net providers and meet the projected health care needs of low-income and uninsured patients.

Sincerely,



John Sackett  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Adventist HealthCare



Emily Briton  
President  
MedStar Montgomery  
Medical Center



LeighAnn Sidone  
President & Chief Operating Officer  
Suburban Hospital



Andre Boyd Sr.  
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