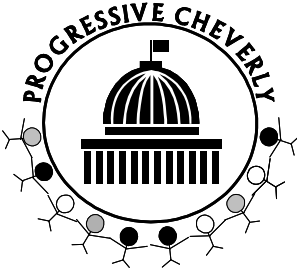


Progressive Cheverly

progressivecheverly.org



3020 Parkway
Cheverly, MD 20785

October 28, 2007

Hon. Gwendolyn Britt
Maryland Senate
James Senate Office Building, Room 222
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Britt:

Progressive Cheverly has collected nearly 1,000 signatures urging state action on the crisis surrounding the Prince George's Hospital System. Signatories to this petition are citizens from throughout Prince George's County and elsewhere in Maryland who are extremely concerned about the future of health care in our County.

After years of financial crisis, declining quality of care, political wrangling and band-aid solutions, it is time for action to assure quality health care and long-term stability for the system. We believe that ensuring health care for the most vulnerable is principally a state function. We call upon you and the General Assembly to achieve a solution, working in consultation with the Prince George's County Executive and County Council as possible, but taking needed action regardless.

While the broad fiscal crisis in Maryland is undoubtedly the priority focus in the special session, this health care crisis and its financial implications must be part of any solution.

It is not enough to simply shore-up the current hospital for the short-term. The residents of Prince George's County deserve first-class community-based health care. A long-term solution is needed.

We understand that the details for a transition to the health care solution we seek will be complex. We offer only the following points that we believe should help guide your efforts:

- A fair approach to solving past funding shortfalls;
- a designated source(s) for future funding;
- the strongest possible efforts to achieve affiliation with a public or not-for-profit private, community-oriented, academic hospital system with a strong commitment to guaranteed service for all; and
- protection for the rights of workers during any transition.

Progressive Cheverly is a local, all-volunteer organization. We believe that our ability to gather these signatures in a short period of time, with help from some other community groups, provides strong evidence of the fact that your constituents—throughout Prince George’s County and the entire state— both support and expect action to be taken by you and the General Assembly.

We thank you in advance for your commitment to this serious issue.

Sincerely,

Aimee Olivo
Co-chair

Norman Oslik
Co-chair

The petition states:

CRISIS AT PRINCE GEORGE'S HOSPITAL CENTER

WE NEED a first-class, community-based healthcare system in Prince George's County.

WE MUST get beyond politics and band-aid measures for Prince George’s Hospital.

WE CALL UPON Governor O’Malley and the General Assembly to act now to make this vision reality.