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Legislative District 25  
Prince George's County

Economic Matters Committee



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March 22, 2007

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the Prince George's County House Delegation's vote on House Bill 510, which would create the Prince George's County Hospital Authority. HB 510 legislation enables the State the ability to create the Authority and take certain necessary actions to stabilize the hospital and determine a long-term strategy for the future of the County's hospital system. The Delegation is working with County and State officials to transform the system into a teaching and research institution. This would put our system on par with Johns Hopkins and the University of Maryland Medical Center, both of which have internationally renowned and respected programs.


The ability to collect additional taxes is but one of many options that the Authority may take, but the delegation stated that the imposition of an additional tax would only be used as a tool of last resort (in other words, if all else fails). If the Authority determines that it is necessary to collect additional taxes, the HB 510 restricts the amount it may impose. In so doing, the average tax payer would be assessed approximately \$45-\$60/year, which amounts to \$4-\$5/month.

We have been advised by hospital officials and the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene for the state of Maryland that the hospital is nearing bankruptcy and has only 3-5 days of cash on-hand. Therefore, the Delegation deemed it necessary to take this step because of the perilous state of the hospital system, and our concern about losing such a vital resource in our community. As you know, this hospital not only serves the uninsured and underinsured, but all Prince Georgians who find themselves in need of trauma or urgent care services. **BOTTOM LINE, WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LOSE THE HOSPITAL.**

The Delegation is optimistic that the County Executive and the Council will come to an agreement with a new health care provider to take over the hospital. If that happens, HB 510 will probably be unnecessary and the Authority will probably never be established. However, the Delegates could not sit by and do nothing without further assurances from our County leaders.

It would have been ideal to have had the opportunity to speak to constituents before taking such an important vote, but the Delegates recently learned of the dire state of the hospital, and the leadership of the County Council recently declared that they would not give the hospital more money to stay afloat. Since we are nearing the end of the legislative session, it was imperative for us to move quickly. All three delegates from District 25 voted to support the HB 510. Please know that the vote we took was in support of the health and safety of our constituents.

Thank you for your questions and your involvement in the community. Please let me know if you have further concerns. I would be happy to address any issues that you may have.

Sincerely,  
  
Aisha Braveboy, Esq.  
Delegate, District 25