

**Joint Hearing of the House and Senate Capital Budget Subcommittees
Miscellaneous Grant Program: MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center – New Surgical Tower**

March 9, 2021

Final Phase of a Complete Campus Modernization

Last year, MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center (MFSMC) celebrated its 50th anniversary of serving the citizens in Eastern Baltimore County. Given the age of the facility, over the last 11 years, MedStar Health embarked on a \$280 plus million, multi-phase modernization project to bring the campus up to current standards. The first phase was the completion of a \$175 million patient tower and emergency department that opened in October 2010. From 2011 to 2016, MedStar Health invested \$27 million to back-fill the old main hospital with a new neonatal intensive unit, a state-of-the-art endoscopy suite, expansion of an adolescent behavioral health unit, and an inpatient hospice unit. The third and final phase of the MFSMC campus modernization is a \$70 million, 750,000 square foot surgical pavilion.

Importance of Replacing MFSMC's Outdated Operating Rooms

The average age of the operating rooms at MFSMC is over 40 years, with many dating back to the opening of the hospital on its current Eastern Baltimore County campus in 1969. The operating rooms are significantly below current space and design standard, only two can accommodate robotic surgery, and are insufficient for the latest technology and number of clinicians needed for today's complex surgery. The new surgical pavilion will consolidate all surgical services into one area of the hospital, replace 14 outdated operating rooms, and include private pre- and post-operative space. These improvements are necessary to continue to provide high quality and advanced services to our patients.

Investing in MFSMC to Improve Community Health

MFSMC's primary service area economic and wellness indicators are *below* the state average, including indicators on median household income, percentage living in poverty, education level, those without health insurance, hospital use rates, and psychiatric use rates. Completion of the MFSMC campus modernization project will facilitate our work to improve the health of our patient population by making care safer, more efficient, and with better outcomes.

Supporting Growth in Eastern Baltimore County

MFSMC is the only hospital in Eastern Baltimore County, has one of the busiest emergency departments in the state, employs more than 3,000 associates, and has a total service area population of approximately 712,000. Eastern Baltimore County is a rapidly growing area of our state. The development by Tradepoint Atlantic at the former Sparrows Point steel plant and the \$750 million mixed-use project at Baltimore Crossroads by St. Johns Properties are but two examples of the significant economic development to this region and the creation of many new jobs and housing stock. To meet the increasing health care demands of a growing population base, it is critical for MFSMC to complete its modernization project and ensure our community has adequate access to health care services into the future.

It's how we treat people.