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December 7, 2015

Mr. John M. Colmers
Chairman
Health Services Cost Review Commission
4160 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215-2254

Dear Chairman Colmers:

On behalf of the Baltimore Workforce Investment Board I am writing to express our support for the concept of a hospital-led employment program that hires from communities of high rates of poverty and unemployment.

We believe the proposed program represents the opportunity to create a broad-based collaboration of government, hospitals, and workforce development entities to address both health and income disparities in our most disadvantaged communities.

Creating an employment path for those living in impoverished communities not only improves the economic stability of those communities, but will also have a positive impact on the overall health of these communities. In addition, as hospitals shift their focus to providing more community-based preventive care; this program will assist in training the workforce needed to make that shift successful.

All of the factors outlined above are aligned with the vision and mission of the BWIB.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views and, if we can be of assistance as this program is further developed, we stand ready.

Sincerely,

Andrew Bertamini
Chair
Baltimore Workforce Investment Board

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor
City of Baltimore

Andrew Bertamini
Chairman
Baltimore Workforce Investment Board
Regional President, Maryland Region
Wells Fargo, N.A.

Jason Perkins-Cohen
Director
Mayors Office of
Employment Development