

From: George, John P

Date: 12/16/2018

Subject: OPPOSITION to DC Council Bill 22-0959 - East End Health Equity Act

I am copying a wide group of interested parties on this email – including all councilmembers and the Mayor's office.

To Mr. Gray, please withdraw this bill.

To other councilmembers, if Mr. Gray does not withdraw the bill, please vote NO on Tuesday December 18.

Despite the attempts that Mr. Gray has made to justify this bill, none warrant going around the current law requiring a Certificate of Need (CON) to determine the types of services and the locations of these services involved with opening new medical facilities. To create and pass a bill that circumvents protections for DC citizens and health-related organizations would be disastrous and gives George Washington University carte blanche in building any facility wherever they want is dangerous.

Many individuals and organizations have now stood up to express their opposition to this bill and the project as it is outlined. Special thanks to Mr. Mendelson, Mr. Evans, Ms. Silverman, and Mr. Todd who have understood the impact, expressed opposition, and/or introduced amendments. Other councilmembers, please look carefully at what is happening. Yes, everyone wants reliable, safe, and quality healthcare east of the river – and throughout the city - but how should DC residents be expected to pay \$300M or more on a facility when they don't know what services will be performed there? For George Washington University Hospital (GWUH) (in reality an outsider organization – Universal Health Services) to make demands of DC is only further creating a bad deal. Just look at the other happenings throughout this city and a reasonable person can conclude that this Bill needs to be canceled and the overall deal needs to go back to the drawing board:

1. Howard University Hospital and the medical school at risk
2. Hard working health workers will be displaced or forced to work under unfair terms
3. Even George Washington University is against this project
4. Ascension is about to abandon Providence, the oldest continuously running hospital in the city... and if Ascension, one of the largest health systems in the country, can do this because of financial issues, it is only a matter of time when GWUH does the same east of river once they get what they want (expansion in Foggy Bottom). And now, the Council is demanding that Providence stay open? Seriously!
5. And specifically to Mr. Grosso... please review your own thoughts and comments about the NFL Football DC Stadium Plan... you used words like "lacks transparency" ; and a "ploy" designed to avoid public scrutiny... Think about B22-0959 in this context, how can you agree to an exemption to the CON which would further shutter public awareness and transparency?
6. And to all involved – with a plea to those At-Large and representing Wards 7 and 8... Why would you settle for such a risky deal? Why would you agree to allow GWUH to force patients to travel to the West End for complex procedures? Now is the time to DEMAND that certain complex procedures be done east of the river to serve the local community and have northwest residents travel east, if needed. Introducing a new transplant service, dialysis clinic, or a cancer center operating out of the St. Elizabeth campus would provide better jobs and close to home services truly leading to a healthier DC population – both economically and health-wise.

Thank you – John George, Ward 2 and District resident for 30+ years