

May 12, 2025

Baltimore City Council
Budget Appropriations Committee



RE: Letter of Information, Council Bill 25-0036

Dear Chair McCray, President Cohen and Committee Members,

I write with concern about the focus and timing of Council Bill 25-0036, to establish a Baltimore City Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Task Force. Many of the nonprofit hospitals and educational institutions covered by the legislation invest significantly in the work and mission of Health Care for the Homeless and other nonprofit service organizations while, from what we understand, all are already contributing a PILOT to Baltimore City and have pledged to continue. At the same time, all nonprofits—particularly universities and health care institutions—are facing damaging ridicule, threats, lawsuits, funding losses from the federal government along with expected cuts to Medicaid and other public benefit programs critical to their missions. Now is not the time to further divide the larger nonprofit community or to place already threatened institutions under a legislative spotlight.

Health Care for the Homeless is Maryland's leading provider of integrated health services and supportive housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. We deliver integrated medical care, behavioral health services, dental care and harm reduction interventions for more than 11,000 people annually at multiple clinic sites in Baltimore City and Baltimore County and through a Mobile Clinic and Street Medicine team. We also support more than 800 highly vulnerable Baltimoreans in more than 550 units of permanent supportive housing.

Over the past 40 years, local hospitals and academic medical centers have been instrumental in the very creation of our organization and in delivering high quality care to people experiencing homelessness regardless of insurance status. Notably, Mercy Medical Center has long provided pro-bono lab and x-ray services to uninsured patients, and both Mercy and Johns Hopkins Medicine provide access to specialty services for the uninsured. (Mercy and Johns Hopkins, along with the University of Maryland were part of the coalition that created Health Care for the Homeless in 1985.)

Over a six-year period between 2018 and 2024, *every hospital* in Baltimore contributed financially to the success of the Assistance In Community Integration Services (ACIS) Medicaid supportive housing waiver to help 300 of our community's most vulnerable individuals and families find housing and keep it – improving health status and

lowering public costs. Because of their collective investment, the state of Maryland is now fully funding the program and expanding it statewide. Whenever we reach out for assistance and support, our nonprofit partners in health care and education are eager to participate through the investment of time, expertise, students, interns and financial resources. And I know they similarly support an entire network of smaller nonprofit partners.

Collectively, nonprofit organizations are facing a tremendous assault on the federal level. A flurry of constantly changing new grant conditions are causing confusion, frustration and gaps in service delivery (along with a significant number of lawsuits). Entire agencies funding the work and research of nonprofits—USAID, NIH, Americorps, etc.—are being reduced or eliminated. Educational institutions, and by extension all nonprofits, are even being threatened with the withdrawal of their very nonprofit status. Part of the strategy of the federal administration is to divide the nonprofit sector in order to seek greater federal control over it. While it's certainly not your intention, local legislative efforts to single out certain nonprofits over others only contribute to this climate of division.

While we have no formal organizational position on Council Bill 25-0036, I don't find it particularly necessary and believe that it's actually harmful to all nonprofit organizations in the current climate.

Thank you for your consideration of this perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin Lindamood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kevin Lindamood, President & CEO