

Andrew Klein

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	SUBJECT	City Council Bill #10-0201R

CITY of
BALTIMORE
MEMO



DATE: June 8, 2010

TO The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
Room 400, City Hall

Attention: Ms. Karen Randle

City Council Bill 10-0201R is a resolution for the purpose of requesting the Executive Director, Commission on Aging and Retirement Education (CARE), the Commissioner of Health, the President, Baltimore Healthcare Access, Inc (BHCA), and the Director of Finance to report to the City Council on the proposed merger of CARE with BHCA; the impact on the level, consistency, and quality of programs for services to the elderly; and the fiscal implications to the City budget and to the receipt of federal and state funds by downsizing or dissolving CARE.

BHCA is a quasi-public agency affiliated with the Health Department. It has received national recognition for its administration of the City's Medicaid program and receives funding from nine major Baltimore foundations. BHCA has a \$10 million annual budget and a staff of 150 and is uniquely positioned to enhance core CARE clientele services such as advocacy, intake and referral, ombudsman, and case management.

The Fiscal 2011 General Fund budget recommendation for the Health Department includes \$844,666 for CARE-related services. This represents a reduction of \$375,666 or 30.8% below the Fiscal 2010 General Fund adopted budget for CARE. Duplicative services in administrative areas such as fiscal management, personnel, and rent have been identified and eliminated. In recent years CARE has faced significant challenges with respect to grant management. The Health Department is uniquely qualified to assume this role and improve upon current CARE fiscal management. Four General Fund positions, including three in Administration, have been abolished. The Health Department reports that all local match requirements for State and federal grants have been funded appropriately.

The Finance Department strongly supports this merger.

cc: Edward J. Gallagher
Angela Gibson

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