

February 9, 2017

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
United States Senate
B4OC Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-2003



Dear Senator Van Hollen:

I am writing to invite you and your staff to visit Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) in Baltimore so you can see the exciting developments we've experienced since Maryland's Medicaid expansion, which allowed us to enroll low-income, single adults into health coverage, many for the first time. Coverage for our patients has increased to 90% (from 30% prior to the ACA). Because of this, we have been able to increase our staffing and number of total patients served, add services, and expand our physical space to ensure that we can provide high-quality, cost-effective care.

Please come for a walk-through of our facility and participate in a conversation with staff and clients so you can see firsthand the growth we have undergone and the positive impact our work has made for people experiencing homelessness. **February 21st and 22nd are days that work best for us and we are happy to accommodate any of your scheduling limitations during these times.**

At present, we are very concerned about the future of the ACA, with particular concern for Medicaid. Efforts to turn this program into a block grant or otherwise cap the program will not only be detrimental to us as a community-based provider, but also will stymie the very innovations we've begun to develop in Maryland to improve care. We welcome this topic for discussion as well as further discussion on our work to address the opioid epidemic, provide mental health treatment, implement cost-saving models of care to reduce hospitalizations, and end homelessness through supportive housing.

As you may know, HCH works to prevent and end homelessness for vulnerable individuals and families by providing quality, integrated health care, access to affordable housing, and sustainable incomes through direct service, advocacy, and community engagement. Founded in 1985, we deliver comprehensive medical care, mental health services, case management, addiction treatment, dental care, and access to housing and employment for individuals experiencing homelessness in Baltimore City, Frederick, and in Harford, Baltimore, and Montgomery Counties.

We would greatly appreciate the opportunity to demonstrate to you and your staff the work we are doing here at HCH, the vital role of safety net funding at the federal level, and to discuss how we can continue to work together.

Everyone deserves to go home.

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We truly appreciate the work you do and your continued support of HCH projects. Together we can ensure that the experience of homelessness is *brief* and *rare*. Please contact Regina Reed, our National Health Policy Organizer, at rreed@hchmd.org or at 443-703-1337 to schedule a visit.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin Lindamood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Kevin" on top and "Lindamood" below it.

Kevin Lindamood
President & CEO