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October 12th, 2022

Bryan Lee
Bon Secours Richmond Community Hospital
1500 North 28th Street
Richmond, VA 23223

Dear Mr. Lee,

Thank you for meeting with me to provide your perspective on the *New York Times* article “How a Hospital Chain Used a Poor Neighborhood to Turn Huge Profits” published on September 24, 2022. I am writing to follow up on my concerns that disadvantaged patients are being left without access to comprehensive medical care after Bon Secours shuttered services at Richmond Community Hospital.

During our meeting, I was troubled by your explanation that the community served by Richmond Community Hospital did not demonstrate sufficient need to justify retaining more comprehensive services. According to the American Academy of Family Physicians and other reputable sources, poverty and low-income status are associated with numerous adverse health outcomes such as shorter life expectancy, higher infant mortality rates, and higher death rates from many diseases, including those related to cardiovascular and kidney health. Seeing a lower patient volume in disadvantaged communities speaks to the barriers people face in accessing health care—rather than the absence of need for health care.

I find it unacceptable that it appears the savings the Bon Secours health system has drawn from the federal 340B Drug Discount Program have not been extended to the most disadvantaged patients in the community served by Richmond Community Hospital, and instead have been invested in more affluent communities. As a supporter of the 340B program, I hope Bon Secours’ actions moving forward more clearly reflect the health system’s stated mission to bring “good help to those in need, especially people who are poor, dying and underserved.”

I look forward to receiving detailed information on how Bon Secours plans to improve access to comprehensive services for patients who depend on Richmond Community Hospital for their health care. I also ask that you provide additional information on your process for determining where to reinvest 340B savings in the community, both in the past as well as moving forward.

I await your response on the steps you intend to take to promptly remedy the inequities in health care access in the Fourth District of Virginia.

Sincerely,



A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress