

**For Immediate Release: May 4, 2007**

## **PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL GETS TOO MANY 'FACTS' WRONG ABOUT HOSPITAL SYSTEM**

### ***Progressive Maryland takes issue with Council's portrayal of hospital crisis***

**SILVER SPRING** – Progressive Maryland issued today a report entitled "Myths and Facts About the Prince George's County Hospital System" taking issue with the County Council's portrayal of the crisis afflicting the system.

Despite promising a 15-month funding package to keep the hospitals open during a funding crisis, the Council issued a Frequently Asked Questions document that seems to absolve the County of responsibility for the hospital and patients. The document also paints incorrect scenarios about the hospital and other county services.

In its FAQ, the Council asserts that the county doesn't own the hospital, is not responsible for reimbursement for uncompensated care, and that future funding for the hospitals would "compromise funding" for schools, police, fire/EMS, Homeland Security, corrections, Sheriff and other services for county residents.

In fact, Prince George's County does own the hospitals and is responsible for reimbursing uncompensated care delivered to patients. And under Governor O'Malley's long-term plan for the hospital, the County would indeed have ample resources to continue to fund the hospital without endangering resident services.

"The Prince George's County government needs to face up to its responsibility to its residents. Band-aids and playing loose with the facts are not what the county needs," said Sean Dobson, acting director of Progressive Maryland. "The County needs to take up Governor O'Malley on his excellent offer for a long-term solution to the hospital problem."

The hospitals faced closing or bankruptcy after the Prince George's County Council rejected an eight-year, \$329 million deal offered by the state of Maryland to share the costs of operating support and hospital renovations for the system. The perpetually financially challenged institutions, which include three hospitals and other related healthcare facilities, serve 180,000 patients yearly and employ 2,300 people.

The County Council's FAQ is available at:

[http://www.goprincegeorgescounty.com/Government/LegislativeBranch/pdf/Hospital\\_FAQ.pdf](http://www.goprincegeorgescounty.com/Government/LegislativeBranch/pdf/Hospital_FAQ.pdf)

The FAQ is posted on the County Council's website at:

<http://www.goprincegeorgescount y.com/Government/LegislativeBranch/index.asp>

Progressive Maryland's critique of the County Council's FAQ is at:

<http://progressivemaryland.org/files/public/documents/reports/2007/MythsAndFactsAboutPgHospSystem.pdf>

The critique is posted on Progressive Maryland's homepage at:

[www.ProgressiveMaryland.org](http://www.ProgressiveMaryland.org)

# # #