

# MARYLAND PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY



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May 10, 2022

Maryland Board of Public Works  
80 Calvert Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: May 11, 2022 agenda, items 50-LL & 51-RP**

Dear Governor Hogan, Treasurer Davis, and Comptroller Franchot:

The Maryland Psychiatric Society cannot support the Board of Public Works transferring the Spring Grove Hospital Center (SGHC) in Catonsville to UMBC without increased transparency and detail. We ask that you delay this decision to allow time for consideration and public discussion of its implications for our most vulnerable citizens.

This is a time when patients wait in the emergency room for days and sometimes weeks for an available bed, so we do not understand how the state clearinghouse could have concluded that SGHC is “excess to the needs of the Maryland Department of Health.” We would also appreciate clarification as to the \$1 appraisal for a property that could generate significant funds for crisis services and other behavioral health system needs.

The Maryland Psychiatric Society would welcome more information and an opportunity to provide feedback. Please email [mps@mdpsych.org](mailto:mps@mdpsych.org) if we can assist you.

Sincerely,

Jessica V. Merkel-Keller, M.D.  
President