



MARYLAND ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS

ABLE, RESPONSIVE FAMILY PHYSICIANS SERVING THEIR COMMUNITIES

July 27, 2018

Samuel E. Moskowitz, FACHE
MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center
9000 Franklin Square Dr.
Baltimore, MD 21237

Dear Mr. Moskowitz and MedStar Senior Leadership:

Every day, in every corner of Maryland, the nearly 1,000 practicing members of the Maryland Academy of Family Physicians (MDAFP) fulfill their promise as: "Able, responsive family physicians serving their communities."

On behalf of the physicians, residents, and students that the MDAFP represents, as well as the patients we serve in the Baltimore area and throughout Maryland, we are writing to express our disappointment with the abrupt closure of the pediatric inpatient department at Franklin Square Hospital in April.

This closure resulted in the termination of long-standing and well-regarded pediatricians. In addition, it immediately put the Franklin Square Family Medicine Residency Program at risk for accreditation violations and closure because of the lack of an inpatient rotation.

Closure of the inpatient unit creates a loss for the families in this community. While arrangements have been made to transfer children requiring admission to other hospitals, the distance and limited resources of this population makes it difficult for families to visit their sick children.

What is most troubling is the suddenness of this decision without consultation or involvement of the physicians or community that would be affected by this decision. It is unfortunate that so often medicine is treated as a business. However, at the heart of that business are patients, their families, and communities. This decision and the process for communicating it, is in conflict with MedStar Franklin Square's mission: "To serve our patients, those who care for them, and our communities." And certainly, conflicts with MedStar Franklin Square's values: "Service, Patient-First, Integrity, Respect, Innovation, and Teamwork." Business decisions, especially in medical situations, must be done with respect to the needs of the community with special attention to vulnerable populations.

The Franklin Square Family Medicine Department and Residency Program provide vital patient, family, and community centered care for Eastern Baltimore County. Many of the residents from this program continue to provide care for this population even after residency. We encourage MedStar to work with these family physicians in providing care to the pediatric population. We anticipate that MedStar will continue to enthusiastically support the Family Medicine Department and Residency Program as an essential provider of primary care for this community. We expect that in the future, MedStar leadership will proactively include physicians in decisions such as this; that so greatly impact the service of patients and the physicians who serve them.

S. Moskowitz, Medstar Franklin Square Medical Center

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MDAFP would like to work with MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center on decisions that affect physicians. We are attuned to the complex financial issues in healthcare and are a willing and able resource to help problem-solve competing priorities. Our communities can only thrive when our patients can rely on stable acute and primary care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kisha N. Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kisha N. Davis, MD, MPH, FAAFP

Board Chair | Maryland Academy of Family Physicians

cc: Kenneth A. Samet, FACHE
Stephen R. T. Evans, MD
Mimi Novello, MD, MBA, FACEP