

April 6, 2011



Dear Community:

We are writing this letter jointly to support Washington Adventist Hospital's plans to relocate and create a comprehensive medical facility in White Oak, next to the U.S. Federal Food and Drug Administration headquarters.

The opportunity to connect in adjoining campuses the FDA with its oversight role for drugs, medical devices and food with the community-based acute clinical services provided by Washington Adventist Hospital presents a unique opportunity to enhance the role of both organizations.

In May 2010, FDA Commissioner Margaret A. Hamburg wrote a letter of support highlighting the Memorandum of Understanding the FDA had signed with Washington Adventist Hospital. In the letter, she noted that having the hospital in White Oak "will complement the research and medical programs on the FDA campus."

We heartily endorse Washington Adventist Hospital's plans to relocate the hospital while also developing health and community services on its current Takoma Park campus. In fact, we are going one step further: we have committed our time as founding members of the Washington Adventist Leadership Council that will provide advice and counsel to the hospital to enhance its clinical, research and public health programs. Health care reform presents opportunities to complement traditional clinical care services with a renewed focus on prevention and community-based health programs.

Washington Adventist Hospital has a long-standing history of providing excellent community-based clinical services and promoting good health with equal vigor.

As one of many examples that is meaningful to us and our work in health care, Washington Adventist Hospital led the way in helping individuals stop smoking well before the landmark Surgeon General's report on the dangers of smoking. The hospital and its physicians have led national and regional efforts to ban smoking on airplanes, raise tobacco taxes to reduce smoking among teens and to ban indoor smoking in public places. Complementing this focus on public health are a long list of services, classes and programs that help individuals lead healthier lives. This commitment to improve public health helped draw us to support Washington Adventist Hospital.

The opportunity to improve access to health care and to advance public health through the relocation of Washington Adventist Hospital is something that cannot be missed.

Sincerely,

David Kessler, M.D.

Professor of Pediatrics and Epidemiology and Biostatistics at The School of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco; Former Commissioner, U.S. Food and Drug Administration

William Novelli

Professor, McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University; Chairman, Center for Social Enterprise; Former CEO, AARP; Founder and Chairman, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids

Louis W. Sullivan, M.D.

Chairman, National Health Museum; Chairman, Sullivan Alliance to Transform America's Health Professions; Former U.S. Cabinet Secretary, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services; Founding Dean, Morehouse School of Medicine

Go to www.expandedhealthaccess.com to learn more about Washington Adventist Hospital's plans to expand access to care in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.