

# DCNA Together – Making a Difference in DC

May 2019



## DCNA Stops Draconian Budget Cuts at United Medical Center

On May 28<sup>th</sup>, the DC Council restored \$ 7.14 million to the Fiscal Year 2020 budget for United Medical Center, thus ensuring that a total of \$ 22.14 million will be provided to UMC. Councilmember Vincent Gray (Ward 7) had in early May sought to cut the funding to \$ 15 million from the Mayor's proposed \$ 40 million subsidy. Despite the lack of time to mount a public campaign, DCNA mobilized our members and met with

senior citizens at several Senior Wellness sites in Southeast DC. Residents of Wards 7 and 8 were frustrated at the lack of transparency over the building of a new hospital and the identification of services to be provided now and when a new hospital may be built. But, most important, residents and nurses were disgusted at the rash decision of Councilmember Gray to attempt to strip the hospital of the money it needs to keep operating this year.

DCNA members and senior citizens turned out in force on May 28<sup>th</sup> in a last ditch effort to convince the DC Council to add to the subsidies currently provided. After a tense morning and aggressive lobbying, the DC Council passed amendments put forward by Councilmembers Trayon White (Ward 8) and Phil Mendelson (Chairman) to restore \$ 7.14 million in addition to the current \$ 15 million provided.



Here are some links to media coverage we received over the course of a few days:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/dc-politics/dc-council-approve155-billion-budget-in-rancorous-debate-over-priorities/2019/05/28/8f93aa08-814a-11e9-95a9-e2c830afe24f\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.9c4e0cd7789a](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/dc-politics/dc-council-approve155-billion-budget-in-rancorous-debate-over-priorities/2019/05/28/8f93aa08-814a-11e9-95a9-e2c830afe24f_story.html?utm_term=.9c4e0cd7789a)

<https://washingtoninformer.com/umc-increased-banneker-set-to-move-on-final-council-budget-vote/>

<https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/local/dc/united-medical-center-gets-dedicated-funding-in-2020-after-dc-budget-vote/65-bf3d2eaf-e06a-44e4-a4b0-8078f4ba4908>

<https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/health/protesters-rally-against-united-medical-centers-closure/65-b7abb009-6aea-487f-9a3e-3dda008c0da2>

<https://www.wusa9.com/video/news/local/dontmutedc-wants-to-save-united-medical-center-in-southeast-dc/65-1909bc73-48cd-4cc7-9480-25d8509b3c6e>

DCNA is continuing the fight to make sure UMC has enough funds to keep providing appropriate care to DC residents. DCNA has received notification that UMC will implement lay offs to nurses and other care givers. This will, undoubtedly, result in cuts to health care services. DCNA has commenced a community outreach program and requests that nurses volunteer to be part of the program and volunteer to visit senior wellness centers throughout the District to discuss health care issues that are important to the community. Please contact Edward J. Smith at [esmith@dcna.org](mailto:esmith@dcna.org) if you are willing to help in the effort to engage our community.

In late breaking news, George Washington University President, Thomas LeBlanc, announced on June 11<sup>th</sup>, that he wants a better deal with Universal Health Services, the majority-owner of the hospital in Foggy Bottom. "Despite our repeated attempts to make improvements, the arrangement with UHS no longer provides for the needs of the community, the local health system, students, or the medical staff," President Thomas LeBlanc stated.

<https://www.washingtoncitypaper.com/news/city-desk/article/21072676/george-washington-university-deeply-frustrated-with-hospitals-majority-owner>

## DCNA Nurses Rally at a Concert at UMC



As part of DCNA's efforts in challenging the cuts to the UMC subsidies, DCNA sponsored and took part in a GoGo concert in the United Medical Center parking lot on Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. This concert sought to highlight the health care needs of the community. As a result, numerous people continually contacted DC Councilmembers, including Mr. Trayon White, seeking support for additional funding.



## Nurses Attend Hearing on Medicare For All

Statement from NNU Executive Director, Bonnie Castillo:



Today's Ways and Means Committee hearing on Medicare for All puts us another step closer to guaranteeing quality health care for everyone. As nurses, we work tirelessly to care for our patients. Every day, we see our patients make heartbreaking choices between getting the care they and their children need or paying rent, buying insulin or buying food. Nurses find this health care crisis unacceptable and inhumane, and we say, 'No more.' Nurses, physicians, and health care activists are taking on insurance, Big Pharma industry groups and others, like the American Medical Association, who are standing in opposition to Medicare for All. We urge Congress to ignore these corporate special interests that have a vested interest in the status quo and

side with the people to guarantee safe, therapeutic health care for every person in the United States.

## Upcoming Events

**13<sup>th</sup> Annual Labor Night at the Nationals Park, Saturday, June 22, 2019 at 7:25 pm.** This year's baseball game will be against the Atlanta Braves. Tickets are \$16 per person with a portion of the proceeds going to the Community Services Agency, AFL-CIO. DCNA has purchased 50 tickets in a single transaction so we may have our name displayed on the billboard. There are still a few tickets left. Please contact Ms. Vickie Spence at [Vspence@dcna.org](mailto:Vspence@dcna.org) if you would like to purchase tickets through DCNA. Be sure to include your name, email address, phone number and number of tickets requested. Children two (2) and under do not require a ticket. Tickets are non-refundable.

Please visit DCNA on our website at [www.dcna.org](http://www.dcna.org) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/DCNursesAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/DCNursesAssociation).

**For Assignment Despite Objection and Grievance forms,** visit [www.dcna.org](http://www.dcna.org).

DCNA is located at 5100 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 306, Washington, DC 20016. Telephone – (202) 244-2705