



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 6, 2019

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## Media Statement on Potential Repeal of East End Health Equity Act

**Washington, DC** - 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East Maryland/DC Chapter, District of Columbia Nurses Association (DCNA) and DC Jobs with Justice released the following statement after Councilman Vincent Gray and the District Committee on Health recently announced an upcoming Council vote in May to repeal the East End Health Equity Act as part of the Budget Support Act:

*"While we applaud Councilman Gray and the Committee on Health for listening to protests from residents to consider the repeal of the East End Health Equity Act, we still have major concerns about the future of healthcare in D.C. The repeal of the act will finally allow hospital employees and the community to have a voice in decisions being made about the new hospital and their healthcare. However, the repeal of the Act leads to more questions than answers. Of greatest concern is that by repealing the Act, Councilman Gray is also potentially revoking important bill amendments: one that requires an academic affiliation with Howard University at the new East End hospital and one that would protect United Medical Center's healthcare workers to ensure they qualify for positions at the new hospital and can form a union. We urge the D.C. Council and Mayor Bowser to pay attention to the needs of the community as they make important decisions about healthcare in southeast and northeast D.C. Any deal for a new facility must ensure a transparent process that results in comprehensive healthcare and quality jobs for the community."*

### Background:

Mayor Muriel Bowser is considering a deal with Universal Health Services (UHS) to replace United Medical Center (UMC) and construct a new hospital on the grounds in Ward 8 of the District vacated by St. Elizabeth's Hospital. The deal being negotiated follows guidelines passed in the [East End Health Equity Act of 2018](#), which exempted certain health care projects of the District of Columbia and District Hospital Partners, LP from the Certificate of Need Process as required by current law. The bill passed with the following amendments, which will no longer be in effect with the proposed repeal of the bill:

- Reduce the bed count from 170 to 150 in Foggy Bottom and GWU Hospital's additional licensed bed capacity from 220 to 200.
- Require that an academic affiliation with Howard University be established for the new East End hospital to be built.

- Require a commitment by the city administrator to work with United Medical Center's nurses and health care workers to ensure they qualify for positions at the new hospital.
- Require GWU Hospital to provide an explanation to any UMC worker denied a job at the new hospital and ensure that the majority of current UMC employees be hired there. (This doesn't guarantee that all union jobs will transfer to the new hospital but includes a neutrality clause, requiring the Employer's agreement to remain neutral in a union's attempt to organize its workforce.)

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