The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
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Dear Members of the Asset Management Board:

We are writing to express our strong support for the proposed redevelopment project at the Morton Street Campus of the Shattuck Hospital (Hospital). In addition to the Hospital services, which are being relocated to the Boston's South End in 2024, the Commonwealth provides critical public health services at the Morton Street campus site. The hospital relocation provides an opportunity to reevaluate other public health services provided on the campus which are required by statute and an existing deed restriction on the site.

The program described in the project proposal will address a critical public health need for supportive housing for the vulnerable populations currently cared for on the campus. Getting people into stable housing – regardless of physical health, mental health , substance use disorders or criminal justice involvement – provides a strong foundation with wrap around supportive services that allow the Commonwealth to address the needs of the whole person. The surroundings of the Morton Street Campus, combined with its proximity to public transit, provides an ideal site for housing and services for this population.

The Morton Street Campus currently has five vendor operated programs that provide substance use disorder services, a methadone clinic, homeless shelter, and behavioral and mental health services critical to the vulnerable populations served. It is expected that these or similar services will continue to be provided on the campus once the hospital services move to the South End. The proximity of these services to the planned supporting housing will provide continuity of care for these residents.

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services, the Department of Public Health and the DCAMM have engaged in a robust stakeholder engagement process, which included a year-long visioning process and regular communications with a Community Advisory Board made up of neighbors, service providers, and advocates from the surrounding neighborhoods. In addition, there were numerous public meetings in which state agencies heard the communities' support of the renovation of the campus along with a need to balance open space and other community needs.

The proposal before you now is designed to utilize the Morton Street Campus in the most efficient and effective way while ensuring a continuum of care for our historically underserved population.

We strongly urge you to approve this proposed project so that we may begin to make strides towards achieving housing stability and critical public health service delivery for some of the Commonwealth's most vulnerable residents.

Sincerely,

Marylou Sudders, Secretary
Executive Office of Health & Human Services

Margret R. Cooke, Acting Commissioner
Department of Public Health