



EMORY
UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE



MOREHOUSE
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

November 16, 2007

To Community and State Leaders:

We, the undersigned doctors from Emory and Morehouse, care for patients at Grady. We have dedicated our careers to serving the injured, sick, and needy who come to us from throughout Atlanta and Georgia. Over the years, thousands of young men and women have come to Grady and become outstanding health care professionals. Many have stayed in Georgia. In addition to clinical practice and teaching, many of us have produced discoveries that have benefited patients throughout Georgia and the world.

We believe in Grady Hospital and its ideals and mission. We love Grady and we deeply care about our patients. But love is not enough. Leaders of Fulton and DeKalb Counties and of businesses and healthcare organizations, as well as the Governor and other elected officials, must act immediately to stabilize the hospital and restore it to financial health.

Through years of eroding support from local, state, and federal governments, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to our patients. Faced with progressive cuts in staffing, deferred maintenance, and shortages of equipment and supplies, we have continued to perform miracles. Grady is everyone's hospital, regardless of race and ability to pay.

We work in the eye of the storm surrounding Grady. It is crucial for the public and policymakers to understand our view of the crisis. If our warning is unheeded, Grady will cease to be a vital resource for Atlanta and Georgia. Grady's governance must be reorganized now to give voice to a broader circle of stakeholders from the surrounding region and state. But change in governance must be accompanied by adequate funding. We call on our state legislators and the Governor to rapidly and substantively address the variety of funding streams that can and do allow for us to provide care and training.

We are very worried about what will happen to our patients if Grady closes. Who will take care of the thousands of uninsured and underinsured sick and injured people who today are able to come to Grady Hospital and see us for care?

There is not a moment to waste. Today, thousands of 4th year medical students across the country are wondering whether to come to Atlanta to become trained physicians. If they choose to do their residencies elsewhere, Georgia will feel the aftershocks for decades.

Grady reflects the history of race relations in Atlanta. Our actions have and should continue to demonstrate that we value the health of everyone. That is just who we are.

The vote on November 26 by the Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority is essential to Grady's survival. The Board's courage in restructuring governance is a prerequisite for garnering much needed support and leadership from multiple constituencies. The health of our community depends on this.

For over a century, Grady has been a beacon of hope, caring, and discovery in the heart of Georgia. It is vital to the state's health and economy. We love Grady and want to continue caring for patients here. We appeal to you, our neighbors and our friends, to help us revitalize and sustain one of the south's great hospitals.

SIGNATURE PAGES ATTACHED