



TUBMAN CENTER FOR HEALTH & FREEDOM

February 16, 2023

Dear Capital Budget Leaders, Rep. Jenkins, and Sen. Billig:

We are writing to express our support for a state investment of \$17 million to build the Tubman Center for Health & Freedom, which will be the state's only Black community-owned and -led health services and workforce development center focusing on the needs of marginalized people. For us and the hundreds of thousands of Washingtonians we collectively represent, the need is clear. The opportunity could not be timelier. The Tubman Center for Health & Freedom will address glaring gaps in physical and behavioral health services and health career pathways for marginalized communities in our state.

With our leadership, we can put Washington on the path to health justice and create new standard-setting models of health care.

Last year, the Legislature made a historic capital investment in the Tubman Center for Health & Freedom, recognizing that it was long past time to address the disparities that cost the lives and health of Black Washingtonians. The State's investment reflected a commitment to support new, community-designed approaches to promoting our communities' health and wellbeing.

Acting on the state's investment, Tubman Health has completed the first phase of community design for its flagship clinic and is securing land for the health center. With continued partnership from the Legislature, Tubman Health can begin construction next year. Tubman Health is requesting \$17 million (divided between FY 2024 and FY 2025) to match private dollars and build a groundbreaking health center that will serve as a state-wide and national model.

The Tubman Center for Health & Freedom will provide the care that communities want and need, treating 8,000 primary care patients a year and reaching 16,000 through health services and health promotion programming. It will provide high-quality jobs with career progression to 60-100 practitioners from community and many additional health center staff. It will offer culturally-appropriate, community-designed healthcare career pathways for future practitioners, expanding our state's healthcare workforce and creating urgently needed opportunity.

Page Two

Tubman Health is poised to transform healthcare for our communities. We ask you to support Tubman Health's capital request in full and ensure its inclusion in final budget legislation.

Sincerely,

Members of the Senate

Sen. Rebecca Saldaña



Sen. Bob Hasegawa



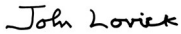
Sen. Joe Nguyen



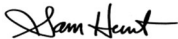
Sen. T'wina Nobles



Sen. John Lovick



Sen. Sam Hunt



Sen. Claire Wilson



Sen. Noel Frame



Sen. Liz Lovelett



Sen. Manka Dhingra



Members of the House

Rep. Chipalo Street



Rep. Debra Entenman



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