

Honorable Wayne Langerholc, Jr.  
Honorable Marty Flynn

Dear Senator Langerholc and Senator Flynn:

As chief executive officers of some of the Commonwealth's largest health care systems, we respectfully urge you to avert a public transportation crisis that will not only make it difficult or impossible for many thousands of our employees to commute, but will also directly harm our patients, particularly those with serious conditions.

Lawmakers passed a state budget that provides SEPTA with \$46 million—a fraction of the \$240 million needed to avoid service cuts and fare increases. Without additional state or local funding by November, SEPTA has said it will be forced to take drastic measures, leading to what has been called a “death spiral” of eroding ridership and an economic contraction that will spread beyond the Southeastern region.

Largely unacknowledged in the discussion of this impending crisis is the impact on tens of thousands of patients who board SEPTA on a daily basis for appointments at our facilities. The lowest income patients will be hard pressed to afford the increased costs, but every patient who relies on SEPTA will face the reality of less reliable transit and increased traffic congestion.

Transit cuts will cause missed appointments to multiply. The evidence is clear on what will happen next: missed primary and specialty appointments will lead to a worsening of health problems. Our systems could see visits to emergency departments increase. The most vulnerable patients—the sickest and those with the fewest resources—will suffer the most, but undoubtedly every patient who uses transit, and many who do not, will be impacted by the declining investment in a vital public service.

An investment in sustainability for SEPTA is an investment in health as well as economic development. We urge you to consider how profoundly access to transportation impacts the public's health, and to provide the sensible dedicated funding that will support transit systems across Pennsylvania.

Thank you,

Madeline Bell  
President and CEO  
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

John J. Lynch III, FACHE  
President and CEO  
Main Line Health

Michael A. Young, MHA, FACHE  
President and CEO  
Temple University Health System