

November 3, 2010

The Honorable Robert F. McDonnell
Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia
Patrick Henry building, 3rd Floor
111 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor McDonnell,

On behalf of Virginia Beach Vision, Inc. and its membership of 115 business and civic leaders I ask for your inclusion of \$5 million in expanded funding for Eastern Virginia Medical School as a part of your 2011 budget amendments.

As you are aware, the 2010 Virginia General Assembly approved language in HB/SB30 that directs the State Council of Higher Education (SCHEV) “to include Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS) in any calculations used to determine the funding requirements for state medical schools.” The intent of this language is to provide a level of state funding for medical and health professions education at EVMS comparable to the medical schools at UVA and VCU.

SCHEV has determined that calculations for comparable funding show that EVMS should receive an additional \$20 million each year. EVMS has requested that this funding be incrementally provided beginning with a \$5 million appropriation as one of your proposed budget amendments during the 2011 session. Subsequent years should “grow in” the remaining \$15 million.

Virginia Beach Vision supports this request. With the national attention EVMS has generated for the Commonwealth through its Jones Institute and cutting edge research in diabetes, EVMS has proven a tremendous bargain for the state within the educational and medical community. It is time the Commonwealth became a full funding partner with the school to continue this success.

The EVMS Board of Visitors has worked with the state and the General Assembly to become a state agency, including state appointments to the EVMS Board and oversight by SCHEV. As such EVMS must appropriately become an equal partner with the other

medical schools in its state funding support. Your amendment to the 2011 budget for \$5 million will move EVMS closer to parity.

I thank you for your consideration and continued support of the medical school.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Barrett
President

cc: Harry T. Lester, President, EVMS