

P.O. Box 3224  
Norfolk, VA 23514

October 12, 2017

The Honorable Terry McAuliffe  
Governor of Virginia  
Patrick Henry Building – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
1111 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor McAuliffe:

We are writing in **strong support of full base adequacy funding for both Old Dominion University and Eastern Virginia Medical School in your 2018-2020 biennial budget.** ODU and EVMS are major economic drivers in our region and are *critical* to our region's ability to diversify and grow our economy. And yet, both continue to be underfunded in comparison to their peer institutions, a disparity that exacerbates the fiscal stress placed on two institutions which disproportionately focus on educating Virginia residents.

**The State Council of High Education (SCHEV) is recommending a \$6.8 million increase in biennial operating support for EVMS. We strongly support the recommendation.** Unlike many other schools, EVMS does not receive funding for across the board higher education salary increases, which makes the recommended increase even more critical. Despite being underfunded, since 2010 EVMS's MD class has grown 30 percent and their School of Health Professions has seen a 65 percent increase, with an additional 20 percent forecasted in the next three years. The additional funds recommended by SCHEV will allow EVMS to increase the number of faculty necessary to accommodate the increased enrollment and meet our growing regional healthcare workforce demands.

For a number of years, ODU has received the smallest percentage of base operating funding of any institution (94 percent). Despite that, ODU has added more in-state students since 2004 than any other public university in the Commonwealth. Approximately 88 percent of ODU's fall 2017 enrollment was comprised of in-state students, a full 10 percentage points greater than the statewide average. ODU's tuition and mandatory fees are the lowest of the six doctoral institutions and ODU's tuition and mandatory fee increase per full-time, in-state students in actual dollars over the past two years are well below the mean of all 4-year institutions.

In order to keep tuition and fees at a minimum for ODU's low and middle-income students and allow ODU to continue to prioritize serving in-state students, it's **critical that ODU's base adequacy calculation be elevated to 100 percent for the first time in the University's history – a cost of \$17.4 million over the biennium. We strongly urge you to include those additional funds in your proposed budget.**

Enclosed is additional information on the case for supporting full base adequacy funding for both ODU and EVMS in your 2018-2020 biennial budget. We thank you in advance for your support.

Respectfully,

Chuck McPhillips, President  
Greater Norfolk Corporation

E. Gordon Parker Jr., President  
Virginia Beach Vision

Henry U. Harris III, Chair of the Board  
Sentara Healthcare

Frank Batten Jr.  
Landmark Media Enterprises

Harry Lester  
EVMS President Emeritus

Paul Hirschbiel, Vice Chairman  
The Memory Center

James J. Izard

Conrad M. Hall

Deborah Stearns

Frank "Buddy" Gadams

Ulysses Turner

B. Wayne Coleman

Ed Hamm

Stanley F. Baldwin

Bill Cofer

Gil Bland

Jeff Ainslie

G. Robert Aston, Jr.

Vincent J. Mastracco Jr.

John Malbon

Wayne Wilbanks, Managing Partner  
Wilbanks, Smith & Thomas Asset Management, LLC

cc: The Honorable Ralph S. Northam, Lieutenant Governor  
The Honorable Dr. Dietra Trent, Secretary of Education  
The Honorable Holly Coy, Deputy Secretary of Education  
The Honorable Nathalie Molliet-Ribet, Deputy Secretary of Education  
The Honorable Todd Haymore, Secretary of Commerce and Trade  
The Honorable Thomas K. Norment, Jr., Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Emmett W. Hanger, Jr., Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable S. Chris Jones, Chair, House Appropriations Committee