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March 13, 2026

Dr. Esmaeil Porsa, President and CEO
Harris Health
4800 Fournace Place
Bellaire, TX 77410

Dear Dr. Porsa,

Thank you for meeting with the Membership of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Houston Branch during our monthly membership meeting on January 15, 2026, to discuss the need for the expansion of the Ben Taub Hospital, which we know services our most vulnerable communities with quality care and currently beyond its capacity. This Ben Taub expansion is essential to help Harris Health meet the current and projected needs of the region's growing population and for the communities that need it most.

The Houston NAACP has a long-standing commitment to help the people and communities that have been under siege, overlooked, and unable to receive access to services that they desperately need when a critical emergency arises for a trauma level one hospital to be able to take them in immediately.

As supporters of the \$2.5B Harris Health Bond, the Houston NAACP realizes the criticality of the social determinants of health that impact our communities and the importance of ensuring these areas are fulfilled as part of our initial Community Benefits Agreement commitment. Likewise, our leadership and membership understands the importance and necessity for Harris Health to expand the Ben Taub Hospital in order to address the rising population demands by providing essential emergency services and the health care needs to the residents of the City of Houston, Harris County, and surrounding counties.

The Houston NAACP fully supports the efforts of Harris Health on the Ben Taub expansion while also encouraging them to continue their system wide commitment and focus on expanding the trauma level one hospital access to the communities that are most vulnerable; with food and mental health deserts and experiencing life expectancy rates that are twenty-three years less than other communities of Harris County. We know that the continuation of these services will help to save the lives of Houstonians and those living in the surrounding counties of Harris County.

Respectfully,

Dr. James Dixon, II

Dr. James Dixon, II, Branch President
NAACP Houston Branch