



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Hammonton Democrats speak out on Kessler

Hammonton – The Hammonton Democratic Party has decided to issue a statement in response to the news that the Kessler Foundation is in need of \$2 million to complete its takeover of the hospital. The Hammonton Democrats recognize how important Kessler Hospital is to the community of Hammonton and its surrounding areas. Many lives have been saved over the 45 years the hospital has served our town. We can not afford to give up such a valuable resource. As a community we must do everything in our power to insure that we have a facility like Kessler available to our residents. This hospital is also a major employer in our town and we must do all we can to support the employees who have been dedicated to the health and well being of our residents for so many years.

However, the Democrats are urging *extreme caution* in any efforts to spend taxpayer dollars to bailout Kessler Hospital. Should the foundation solicit taxpayer funding, then the Town Council should appoint a neutral, bipartisan commission with healthcare expertise. This commission will be tasked to conduct a Cost-Benefit Analysis of the Town's options in terms of Kessler. Any and all options must be explored to insure the long term availability of a facility such as Kessler to our residents.

The Democrats also are asking that their opponents not play politics with Kessler Hospital. The Foundation has made the commitment to take over the Hospital. They need to conduct their planning outside the noise of the local elections. The temptation for all political parties is to prey on the uncertainty of the Town and make empty promises. Such actions are not in the interest of Hammonton.

We need to put aside party politics and come together as one community to find the best possible solution to this most important issue facing our town.

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