



July 29, 2026

From:
West End Home Builders' Association
1112 Rymal Road East
Hamilton, Ontario L8W 3N7

To: **Members of the Audit, Finance and
Administration Committee**
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5

WE HBA Letter: Development Charges Exemption for Keaton's House Children's Hospice

Dear Mayor Horwath and Members of the Audit, Finance and Administration Committee,

On behalf of the West End Home Builders' Association (WE HBA), representing more than 300 member companies across Hamilton, Burlington and Grimsby, I am writing to express our strong support for Councillor Alex Wilson's motion to exempt Keaton's House Children's Hospice from municipal development charges.

WE HBA is proud to advocate for housing, growth, and the communities we help build. But there are occasions when our voice must extend beyond our membership and speak for those who need it most. Today, we lend our support to the children and families who will one day find comfort at Keaton's House, and to those who never had that opportunity. Supporting this hospice is about building a more compassionate community, one that ensures no family faces the end of a child's life without the care, dignity, and support they deserve.

Keaton's House represents a significant investment in the health and well-being of children and families across Hamilton and South-Central Ontario. As the region's first dedicated pediatric hospice, it will provide specialized palliative and end-of-life care in a compassionate, family-centred environment designed specifically to meet the unique needs of children facing life-limiting illness. As such, WE HBA has proudly chosen Keaton's House as our charity of choice. We believe every family facing the unimaginable deserves access to compassionate, specialized care close to home. For children facing life-limiting illness, Keaton's House will provide the opportunity to be surrounded by love, comfort, laughter, and family, while ensuring parents, siblings, and grandparents receive the compassionate support they need during the most difficult days of their lives.

Keaton's House will provide an essential healthcare service for children and families across Hamilton and South-Central Ontario. The public benefit this facility will deliver for generations to come far outweighs the development charges that would otherwise be payable. Supporting this exemption is an investment in compassionate care, stronger communities, and a healthcare system that better serves families during life's most difficult moments.

Waiving these charges represents a meaningful investment by the City in an extraordinary community initiative that aligns with Hamilton's values of compassion, inclusion, and community care. It also demonstrates the City's commitment to partnering with charitable organizations that provide essential services residents could not otherwise access locally.



We commend Councillor Wilson for bringing this motion forward and respectfully encourage members of the Audit, Finance and Administration Committee and Council to support it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike Collins-Williams, MCIP, RPP
Chief Executive Officer
West End Home Builders' Association

cc: Danielle Zucchet, CEO, Kemp Hospice