



**ETHICS COMMISSION
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY**

July 19, 2007

By Electronic Mail Only

Re: AO-07-49

You inquired whether a council member may attend the dinner hosted by [Concentra](#), a medical provider company. The answer is that like the dinner hosted by Blue Cross/Blue Shield, acceptance of this dinner is prohibited by §7-5-106(b).

Concentra, a rapidly growing health care provider, does significant business with the County and its county business is growing. Most of its work comes through the bidding process or through "bundled contracts" where Concentra is one of the subcontractors. It is currently doing some non-bid work with risk management- the post-injury worker's compensation evaluation examinations. It has also been awarded contracts for pre-employment physicals for public safety and public works employees. It performs all volunteer firefighter physicals and has just been awarded the contract to do all fire department employee wellness physicals. Concentra provides multiple services, specializing in occupational health and government contracts.

Because of its business with the county, Section 7-5-106(b), which prohibits employees from accepting gifts from any person or entity that "does or seeks to do business of any kind, regardless of amount, with the County" would apply to bar acceptance of this dinner invitation if it exceeds \$25 (or \$50 per couple).

The council member may attend this dinner if the member or the county pays for the cost in excess of the \$25 maximum permitted for a gift of an occasional meal of modest value.

The Anne Arundel County Ethics Commission

By: Betsy K. Dawson
Executive Director