

House-Cleaning & Law-Following

June 16, 2019

Larry Hogan, Maryland's popular Republican governor, has vowed to "clean house" in the wake of the scandals rocking the "private" non-profit University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS), set up by the State of Maryland.

It isn't just former Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh, who resigned from the UMMS board after it was disclosed the board had purchased \$500,000 worth of her self-published children's book, "Healthy Holly." Yep, it's always *for the children*. (Pugh also resigned as mayor after the FBI raided her home and office.)

In fact, nine of the 23 UMMS board members had money-making contracts with the system

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they "manage." Not to mention that a recent *Post* exposé detailed how former state legislator and

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long-time board member, Francis Kelly, whose legislation established the system, had multi-million-dollar insurance contracts with UMMS.

Yet, as *The Washington Post* reports, "state law long has called for housecleaning . . . specifying that board members can't serve more than two consecutive five-year terms."

Gov. Hogan and his predecessors — both Republican and Democrat — simply ignored the law, reappointing board members beyond the limits.

"If members were allowed to essentially stay on the board in perpetuity," former state senator, now U.S. Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-Md.) argued, "it's a direct threat to the independence and accountability of the board."

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So much corruption, too few limits.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.