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1	\$57990 ORIGINAL
2	ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
3	HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD
	BEFORE HEARING OFFICER KAREN HALL
4	BEFORE HEARING OFFICER NAMEN IMME
5	T- D
	In Re:
6	Public Goods Parandine Project No. 10-013
	Public Comments Regarding) Project No. 10-013
7	Westlake Hospital Transfer)
	of Ownership to Vanguard)
8	Health Management, Inc.)
9	
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11	
12	REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had and testimony
13	taken in accordance with the requirements of the
14	Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act on the
15	Westlake Hospital, Melrose Park, Transfer of
16	Ownership to Vanguard Health Systems, Inc.,
17 18	taken at the Village of Melrose Park,
19	1000 North 25th Avenue, Melrose Park, Illinois,
	on April 26th, 2010, at the hour of 9:23 a.m.
20	on April 20m, 2010, at the hour or 3.23 a.m.
21 22	RECEIVED
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24	MAY 1 0 2010
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1	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Good morning.
2	THE AUDIENCE: Good morning.
3	HEARING OFFICER HALL: I'm with the
4	Illinois Department of Public Health. I'm here
5	today to conduct a public hearing on the proposed
6	project known as 10
7	THE AUDIENCE: We can't understand you.
8	HEARING OFFICER HALL: They're
9	getting another mic.
10	Okay. Again, good morning. I'm with the
11	Illinois Department of Public Health. I'm here
12	today to conduct a public hearing on the proposed
13	project known as 10-013, Westlake Hospital,
14	Melrose Park, Illinois.
15	As per the rules of the Illinois Health
16	Facilities and Services Review Board, I would
17	like to read the legal notice into the record.
18	"In accordance with the requirements of the
19	Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act, notice
20	is given of receipt to transfer ownership of a
21	hospital (Project 10-013), Westlake Hospital,
22	Melrose Park.
23	"Applicants: Vanguard Health Management,
24	Incorporated; Vanguard Health Financial

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1	Corporation, LLC; VHS; Westlake Hospital,
2	Incorporated; Resurrection Health Care Corporation;
3	and Westlake Community Health System, d/b/a
4	Westlake Hospital.
5	"The Applicants, Vanguard Health entities,
6	propose to acquire the ownership of a 225-bed
7	acute care hospital located at 1225 Lake Street,
8	Melrose Park. The cost for this project is
9	\$20,310,500.
10	"Consideration by the State Board has been
11	tentatively scheduled for the June 8-9, 2010, State
12	Board meeting.
13	"A public hearing is to be held by the
14	Illinois Department of Public Health pursuant to
15	the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act. The
16	hearing is open to the public and will afford an
17	opportunity for parties at interest to present
18	written and/or verbal comment relative to the
19	project.
20	"All allegations and assertions should be
21	relevant to the need for the proposed project and
22	be supported with two copies of documents or
23	materials that are printed or typed on paper size
24	8 1/2 by 11.

"A copy of the application may be reviewed at the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board office at 525 West Jefferson Street, Second Floor, Springfield, Illinois 62761. To obtain a copy of the application, the phone number for the office is (217) 782-3516. You can call the office for copying fees and details.

"Any person wanting a public hearing on the proposed project must submit a written request for such hearing to the address that I just mentioned.

"If you have not done so, please sign in using the appropriate registration forms. One form is for individuals who want to provide testimony in support of the project. Another form is for people to provide testimony who want to oppose the project, and the last form is for individuals to register their attendance who do not wish to testify.

"To ensure that the Illinois Health

Facilities and Services Review Board protects the

privacy and maintains the confidentiality of

individuals' health information, covered entities

as defined by the Health Insurance Portability

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1	Act of 1996, such as facilities, hospital
2	providers, health plans, and health care
3	clearinghouses submitting oral or written
4	testimony that discloses protected health
5	information of individuals shall have valid,
6	written authorization from that individual. The
7	authorization shall allow the covered entity to
8	share the individual's protected health
9	information at this hearing.
10	"Those of you who came with prepared text
11	for your presentation may choose to submit that
12	text without giving testimony. However, if you
13	are giving oral testimony, please be as brief as
14	possible.
15	"As per legal notice, I would appreciate
16	two copies of your testimony. When you make your
17	presentation, please give the Court Reporter the
18	correct spelling of your complete name.
19	"If there is a chief spokesperson for the
20	Applicant, we would like that individual to make
21	the first presentation. The remaining testimony
22	will be taken in the order of the names given on
23	the register.
24	"Please hold all of your questions until

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1	the testimony until all of the testimony is
2	presented."
3	Sister Patricia Ann Koschalke from
4	Resurrection Health Care.
5	SISTER KOSCHALKE: Can you hear me?
6	THE AUDIENCE: Yes.
7	SISTER KOSCHALKE: I am Sister
8	Patricia Ann Koschalke, S-i-s-t-e-r,
9	P-a-t-r-i-c-i-a, A-n-n, K-o-s-c-h-a-l-k-e.
10	I am Sister Patricia Ann Koschalke, a
11	member of the Religious Congregation of the
12	Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth. I would
13	like to welcome all of my fellow Sisters in
14	front, the Sisters of the Resurrection, and the
15	Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth. I am
16	pleased to see the hundreds of supporters of the
17	Certificate of Need who have taken time out of
18	their day to be here with us.
19	I chair the sponsorship board and serve on
20	the board of directors of Resurrection Health
21	Care, which is responsible for the direction of
22	the comprehensive health system.
23	Prior to my board experience I served as
24	the chief executive officer of Holy Family

8 Medical Center for 23 years where I gained a deep 1 understanding of the health care needs of communities. My testimony summarizes the mission 3 discernment process regarding the sale of Westlake Hospital to Vanguard Health Systems, Incorporated. 7 Vanguard currently operates 15 hospitals, 8 including two in the Chicago area, and runs three 9 managed care plans. The company has experience 10 in purchasing and operating faith-based health 11 care providers: St. Vincent's, a Catholic hospital in Worcester, Massachusetts, and Baptist 12 13 Health System in San Antonio, Texas. 14 All assets associated with the operation of 15 both hospitals and the outpatient campus in 16 River Forest are included in this transaction. 17 I want to stress that a timely and 18 efficient review and approval of this Certificate 19 of Need is essential to the continuation of 20 health care services for these two facilities. 21 Resurrection Health Care will be unable to 22 continue operation of the facilities as they 23 exist today, and despite much effort, no other 24 potential purchasers have expressed interest in

9 continuing the operation of these facilities. 1 Resurrection Health Care's mission statement proclaims, "RHC exists to witness God's 3 sustaining love through compassionate familycentered care." A significant portion of Resurrection 7 Health Care's operating losses are associated 8 with the two hospitals. Keeping these providers 9 in our system puts the rest of the RHC system at a risk. We will be unable to witness love 10 11 through compassionate, family-centered care in the communities served by our remaining hospitals 12 13 and facilities if we continue to provide operating subsidies to West Suburban and Westlake. 14 The RHC mission also proclaims, "Motivated 15 16 by a reverence for life and respect for those we 17 serve, we are committed to improving the health and well-being of our community." 18 19 The community that RHC serves has expanded 20 significantly since 1997 from two hospitals to 21 eight hospitals and a broad spectrum of other 22 services and programs. Unfortunately, given our 23 financial situation, Resurrection now needs to 24 focus on a smaller market area and our strongest

10 providers to improve the health and well-being of 1 patients in those core markets. 3 Finally, our mission statement proclaims, "We promote a climate that empowers all of us to effectively steward our human and financial resources." RHC has very limited resources with respect 8 to capital and management personnel. As good 9 stewards, we are at a juncture where we may --10 I'm sorry -- we are at a juncture at which we 11 need to scale down to strengthen our remaining 12 providers and focus on assuring our long-term 13 ability to continue our mission. As one of the leaders of the system's sponsors, this is very 14 important to me and my fellow Sisters. 15 16 Market forces and a severe economic 17 downturn are affecting many providers. Overall 18 volumes and net reimbursement are down, and a 19 continued shift to nonacute settings is evident. 20 National health care reform is now a reality. 21 State and Federal governments and other payers 22 will be reforming payment mechanisms to reward 23 high-quality, integrated, evidence-based care. 24 The vision for Resurrection Health Care is

11 to become an accountable health care organization. 1 This vision places more importance on keeping patients healthy and coordinating their care than 3 on owning and operating acute care hospitals. RHC most focus its limited resources on fewer markets and services and build enhanced 7 capabilities needed to succeed in this new environment of health care reform. No other viable options to transferring 9 10 ownership of these hospitals have been found 11 despite expensive study. Since closure of either or both of the hospitals was considered 12 13 undesirable given the massive loss of jobs that would result, the only viable option remaining 14 was divestiture of these facilities. 15 16 RHC sought to identify a suitable buyer to 17 take over the hospitals, one who would have sufficient resources to invest and assure their 18 19 continued operation into the future. We believe 20 the transfer of ownership to Vanguard Health 21 Systems is the best option for the communities 22 served by these facilities, the physicians, and 23 the employees who work there. 24 Thank you for the opportunity to share this

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1	important message with you.
2	(Applause.)
3	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Trip Pilgrim.
4	MR. PILGRIM: Good morning. Can
5	everybody hear in the back? Good.
6	Wow, this is one of the first I'm amazed
7	at all the yes stickers here. Thank you for
8	targeting out nearly hundreds of supporters for
9	this initiative.
10	Good morning. My name is Trip Pilgrim, and
11	I'm currently the senior vice president and chief
12	development officer for Vanguard Health Systems.
13	I've worked for Vanguard for nine years in
14	various capacities and currently as the company's
15	point person working with Resurrection on this
16	transaction.
17	Thank you for the opportunity to speak
18	today and to speak as the Illinois Health
19	Facilities and Services Review Board considers
20	the transfer of ownership of West Suburban
21	Medical Center and Westlake Hospital from
22	Resurrection Health Care to Vanguard.
23	I want to begin by expressing my deep
24	appreciation for the many community organizations,

13 elected officials, and regular citizens who have 1 already expressed their support for these applications. 3 Our company provides health care services to a diverse group of patients and communities through 15 hospitals located in four states, 7 including two facilities here in the Chicago area. Our more than 20,000 employees bring to the 8 9 table with them a broad spectrum of experience from clinical care, operations, contracting and 10 11 finance, to purchasing, human resources, and 12 community relations. 13 Our company also has a track record of 14 investment and growth. Over the last five years, 15 Vanguard has funded capital expenditures of over 16 \$950 million and increased its workforce by 17 approximately 5,000 employees nationwide. 18 I'm proud to be here today to talk about 19 Vanguard's desire to expand the services we 20 provide in the Chicagoland area. Our commitment 21 to this region first started in 2000 with the 22 purchase of MacNeal Hospital in Berwyn and 23 continued in 2002 when Weiss Memorial Hospital 24 joined our family.

Vanguard embraces the community which it serves and is committed to ensuring that residents never have to leave their community to find access to the highest level of care and services. That is our philosophy and that is the level of service we provide.

As was and still is the case with MacNeal and Weiss, we respect our hospitals' autonomy and firmly believe in maintaining local authority.

Vanguard owns the physical assets of MacNeal and Weiss, but it is our teams of local administrators, medical professionals, and employees who own their operations, set their policies, and help to make the hospitals successful. If the proposed purchase is approved, we will bring the same philosophy to West Suburban and Westlake because we know this is a model that works for our hospitals and the patients they serve.

Vanguard has a long track record of success in strengthening the hospitals we own through significant capital investment, thought leadership that enhances their efficiency and, most importantly, improves clinical care and the experience for the patient. The communities we

serve have seen health care improve as a result of our efforts.

Simply put, we don't buy hospitals to maintain the status quo or to close them. We're committed to developing urban-based integrated health delivery systems. Therefore, we purchase hospitals as a part of our desire to develop these urban systems, to improve their clinical care, enhance the quality of services, increase patient satisfaction, and grow the number of patients we serve.

To that end I have a lot of recent and personal experience. When Vanguard purchased the Baptist Health System in San Antonio in January 2003, I had the great opportunity to serve there in a senior role and eventually as president and CEO of that system.

Like West Suburban and Westlake, Baptist
Health System was facing significant financial
and operational challenges when we acquired it.
We set ambitious goals for the system and reached
out to San Antonio's diverse community with the
goals of ensuring the system's solvency,
improving its clinical care, and involving the

16 1 community in its turnaround. In the last seven years we've made capital 3 investments of over \$450 million into the system which included upgrading and renovating facilities, expanding services, and acquiring new clinical technologies. The result was many 7 clinical firsts for the city of San Antonio and a 8 significant growth in the numbers of patients we 9 cared for. In Bexar County alone -- that's the 10 county San Antonio is in -- our market share grew 11 from 28 1/2 percent to almost 36 percent in this 12 time frame. 13 We also own a nursing school. In 2003 we 14 had 125 students. Today we have over 500 students 15 in our nursing school in San Antonio. 16 Growth is a good thing, especially for creating jobs. When Vanguard acquired the BHS in 17 2003, there were approximately 4500 employees in 18 19 that system. Today there are over 6,000 employees 20 in that system. 21 I'm also proud to say the culture we 22 developed in San Antonio has resulted in BHS 23 being among the top contributors year in, year 24 out to the United Way of San Antonio.

family there was among those leading the efforts to provide assistance to coastal evacuees as a result of hurricanes Katrina, Rita and then later Ike. This year our entire Vanguard family raised \$162,000 for the victims in Haiti, and that was matched by the company for a total contribution of \$325,000.

Vanguard also recognized the challenges facing San Antonio's uninsured population, as Texas has the highest uninsured rate in the United States. Among participating in numerous other community-based programs committed to serving historically underserved populations, we helped form a fully staffed primary care center devoted exclusively to serving the region's working uninsured.

It is this experience and similar ones from throughout the country that we bring with us to West Suburban and Westlake Hospitals. Vanguard recognizes the significant responsibility that we have to provide care to the entire community. In 2009 alone our hospitals and health care facilities provided approximately \$100 million in charity care and over \$300 million in total

uncompensated care nationwide. Right here in the Chicagoland area among the region's largest hospitals including not-for-profits MacNeal and Weiss are consistently ranked in the upper echelon hospitals that are most committed to charity care.

This was reported on by Crain's Chicago
Business just this past October. According to
data collected by the Illinois Department of
Public Health, our hospitals in this region are
in the upper echelon of those who provide
charity care.

MacNeal was one of six Chicago-area hospitals that pay taxes and spent a larger percentage of its revenue on a combination of charity care and treatment of public aid patients compared to the majority of the area's 20 largest not-for-profit hospitals. That same data indicated that Weiss also spent more on charity care last year than half of the area's largest 20 not-for-profit hospitals. In addition, nearly 80 percent of Weiss and 55 percent of MacNeal's patients are either Medicare or Medicaid beneficiaries, programs that regularly fail to

reimburse for the cost of the services that we provide.

Our hospitals are proud partners with the communities in which they operate. Our doctors, nurses, and staff serve on the boards of neighborhood charities, schools, community organizations, and religious groups. This includes the Alivio Medical Center, Chicago Health Outreach, and Apna Ghar, just to name a few. Our investment in West Suburban and Westlake will allow us to continue and expand these partnerships, start new ones, and assure that critical medical care continues to be available in the Oak Park and Melrose Park communities.

Let me make clear that the challenges facing West Suburban and Westlake are significant and will be difficult to overcome. Moreover, the proposals we are talking about today are very different than that which Vanguard is currently involved in in Detroit, Michigan. That is because these are very different organizations, and the two situations are very different.

The Detroit Medical Center is a \$2 billion,

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7 hospital system with over 12,000 employees. It provides world class clinical care and has achieved national recognition. The DMC has been identified by U.S. News and World Report and the Leapfrog Group as among the top clinical providers in the United States.

The DMC has three magnet status nursing hospitals and a world-class children's hospital. They also have a world-class rehab hospital specializing in the treatment of traumatic spinal injuries. Also, the DMC is the primary teaching system for Wayne State Medical School, which is the largest single-campus medical school in the United States. They have received national recognition for its EMR. Finally, the DMC has been profitable for the last several years.

In stark contrast, West Suburban and Westlake combined are a fraction of the size of the DMC, and they've been very financially challenged facilities. As you've already heard, both hospitals have operated in the red for the last five years and together have lost a combined \$166 million dollars.

As you have heard, Resurrection approached

us after concluding that in order to strengthen
their overall system they needed to divest these
two facilities. In addition to Vanguard,
Resurrection contacted other systems, including
nonprofit and for-profit systems, Catholic
systems, other faith-based and secular systems,
and there was no interest. It was our
understanding then, and it still is today, that
if Vanguard had not been interested, then the
future existence of these facilities as they're
currently configured would be in serious
jeopardy.

But we are interested. As does

Resurrection, we believe that these two hospitals have a reason to exist and can continue to serve their communities for years to come. Also, given the neighborhoods that MacNeal Hospital serves are close to those neighborhoods which are currently served by West Suburban and Westlake, we believe there are opportunities to gain some efficiencies that can make the overall system more viable.

We have done our due diligence and made our offer to acquire West Suburban and Westlake with

our eyes wide open. Turning around these facilities will not be easy, and the challenges will be many, not the least of which is the continuing ability of Illinois Medicaid to reimburse providers at some level approaching the cost of treating Illinois Medicaid recipients.

However, Vanguard is willing to take on these challenges and the risks that come with them because we believe these facilities cannot only survive but can thrive. We believe these hospitals are vital to the communities they serve and are committed to seeing them succeed.

We are fully aware of the financial investment and work that will be needed to be successful at West Suburban and Westlake to put them in a position to grow in the future because we have done it before. We've done it here in Chicago; and we've done it in San Antonio; we've done it in Arizona and in Massachusetts.

As this process moves forward, we welcome the opportunity to work with the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board, appropriate state agencies, and the Oak Park, Melrose Park, and neighboring communities in turning

	23
1	West Suburban and Westlake into facilities we can
2	all be proud of.
3	Thank you very much.
4	(Applause.)
5	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Doug Woodson.
6	MR. WOODSON: Good morning. My name
7	is Doug Woodson, and I'm an organizer with AFSCME
8	Council 31.
9	Our union has been working with employees
10	with the Resurrection Health Care System who are
11	seeking to form a union. Employees are
12	organizing so that they may have a voice in the
13	decisions that affect their work lives and their
14	ability to provide high-quality care to their
15	patients.
16	These union activists are motivated by a
17	belief that a genuine voice for employees through
18	a union will lead to better and, ultimately, more
19	financially successful hospitals. It is in this
20	spirit that AFSCME Council 31 urges the Board to
21	demand more from Vanguard and Resurrection
22	regarding the change of ownership of Westlake and
23	West Suburban.
24	Employees of these hospitals have worked

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with little recognition and under increas difficult conditions to provide the best care to residents of the west suburbs and west side of Chicago. Today you will hea many of these employees about why they de more from Vanquard and Resurrection than 60 days of job security. Employees will be joined by area re who will testify that their communities of full 10-year commitment from Vanguard to hospitals open. Vanguard has made this commitment in its application to acquire Medical Center. We urge the Board to make corporation demonstrate the same commitme Westlake and West Suburban. Members of the community and AFSCME also raise concerns about Vanquard's comm to quality care at its Chicago-area hospi its capacity to invest in the kinds of be resources that will improve Westlake and West Suburban.

AFSCME Council 31 recognizes the challenges of providing health care in today's difficult market, but this deal between Resurrection and

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1	Vanguard places the burden of difficult times
2	squarely on the shoulders of dedicated employees
3	and patients.
4	AFSCME Council 31 urges the Board to
5	guarantee that any transfer of ownership of
6	Westlake and West Suburban include a 10-year
7	commitment to keep the hospitals open and a real
8	commitment to the employees who make these
9	hospitals run.
10	Thank you.
11	(Applause.)
12	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Pat Shehorn.
13	MS. SHEHORN: Good morning. I want to
14	start by expressing my deep gratitude for all of
15	you for giving up your Monday to be here with us
16	as a sign of support. Thank you very, very much
17	on behalf of the entire Westlake Hospital team.
18	My name is Pat Shehorn, S-h-e-h-o-r-n. I
19	am the executive vice president and chief
20	executive officer at Westlake Hospital. I've
21	been with Westlake for 11 years.
22	I'm here today to voice my support for
23	transfer of ownership of Westlake Hospital from
24	Resurrection Health Care to Vanguard Systems,

1 Incorporated.

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Westlake Hospital has been serving Melrose Park, Maywood, Bellwood, and Proviso Township for over 80 years. We are a community hospital at our core, a resource for the community, a neighbor, and an employer for many residents. are the kind of hospital that has seen generation after generation walk through our doors. We have been an employer for entire families at one point or another. We are a hospital with a long-term medical staff and employee workforce. Many have spent their entire careers at Westlake dedicated to serving a changing community, always adapting and responding to the community's evolving needs.

Westlake is the kind of hospital that makes you feel welcome no matter who you are, where you come from, or what language you speak. Over the years we have made great strides and strengthened our relationships with our community. been fortunate to have partnered with the Westlake Health Foundation and have been the benefactor of numerous grants.

These grants have enabled us to implement innovative programs such as certified medical

interpreter program that has served as a model within Resurrection Health Care and throughout hospitals in the Chicagoland area. We have provided thousands of screenings and many programs for families in our community.

We are always encouraged by the community's response to the many programs we have offered, programs that have made a difference in the lives of the people in this community, programs that have saved lives, programs that range from offering free mammograms to uninsured women in Proviso Township to implementing nutrition and health programs in our local schools and within the village to combat the nation's childhood obesity crisis.

Nonetheless, despite our many successes helping to improve the health of our community, our financial losses bring us to a crossroad in our history. We have been a part of Resurrection Health Care for 12 years and together have remained committed to serving our community. However, we are painfully aware that Resurrection health care can no longer sustain the financial losses at Westlake Hospital and its other

entities and also reinvest in much needed facility infrastructure and technology.

We feel blessed that Vanguard Health
Systems wants Westlake as part of its system.

Vanguard has expressed a commitment, just as they have for the past 10 years at MacNeal, to strengthening Westlake so that we can continue working in our community to improve the health and well-being of those who live here.

Vanguard has committed to keep our dedicated, caring, compassionate employees and physicians who care for the people in the community as they would care for members of their own family. We are confident that the transfer of ownership to Vanguard provides us with continued viability.

We have received a groundswell of support from community leaders, residents, our medical staff, and employees which you see here. We are dedicated to carrying out our mission of care. We also recognize that the livelihood of many employees, physicians, and local businesses are at stake if the transfer of ownership does not take place.

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1	I appreciate the opportunity to voice my
2	support for the transfer of ownership of
3	Westlake Hospital. I also respectfully request
4	the Board's efficient and timely review of this
5	application in order to protect employment and
6	investment in this community and to ensure that
7	the much needed medical care for patients in our
8	community is in no way interrupted or discontinued.
9	Thank you.
10	(Applause.)
11	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Martin Sandoval.
12	MR. SANDOVAL: Good morning.
13	Buenos días.
14	My name is Martin Sandoval. I'm the State
15	Senator for the 12th Legislative District in the
16	State of Illinois. I represent the southwest
17	side of Chicago, the neighborhoods of West Lawn,
18	Gage Park, Archer Heights, Garfield Ridge, and
19	La Villita, Little Village.
20	(Applause.)
21	MR. SANDOVAL: I also represent the
22	Town of Cicero, the City of Berwyn, and the
23	Village of Stickney.
24	I represent the heart of the Latino

30 community in Illinois. 1 It is the largest district of Latinos in the Midwest in the State of Illinois. I come here today as a resident of 3 the service area of MacNeal Hospital; I come here as a community leader of the Latino community; I come here as a state legislator representing the 7 people of the State of Illinois. I'd like to formally convey my support to 8 the Illinois Health Facilities and Services 9 Review Board for a Certificate of Need to 10 11 transfer ownership of West Suburban Hospital and Westlake Hospital from Resurrection Health Care 12 13 to Vanguard Health Systems, Inc. 14 Vanguard Health Systems owns two hospitals 15 in the Chicago area: MacNeal Hospital, which 16 joined Vanguard in 2000, and Louis A. Weiss 17 Memorial Hospital in 2002. These hospitals have 18 long-standing reputations of serving Berwyn and 19 Chicago's north-side communities. 20 Under Vanguard's ownership, MacNeal and 21 Weiss have improved their reputations of 22 providing high-quality health care services, and 23 both hospitals provide Medicaid and Medicare

services on par with not-for-profit hospitals

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1 within	respective	markets.
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It is imperative to the communities served by West Suburban Medical Center and Westlake
Hospital that the acquisitions of these hospitals move forward without delay. I would like to see the Health Facilities and Services Review Board, consistent with its rules and capabilities, expedite the review and approval of the change of ownership applications and, in doing so, facilitate the associated transactions' completion.

I request the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board approve the application for Certificate of Need.

I personally know that MacNeal Hospital is an institution that is known for providing service and care in the spirit of Resurrection Hospital — with love. I understand the need for a hospital like MacNeal and Vanguard, a corporate — a corporation, an institution that has made its mark on our communities, especially here in west suburban Cook County and the southwest side of Chicago and in the Latino communities.

They have done it when no one else has.

They have opened the doors to the Latino

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1	community when many hospitals have shut their
2	doors. They have opened their doors to the
3	Medicaid and to the public aid patients when
4	other hospitals have shut their doors. MacNeal
5	Hospital and Vanguard systems have lived the
6	spirit, have lived the spirit and the mission of
7	Resurrection Hospital, and they've done it for
8	many, many years. I believe that there is no
9	doubt in my mind that this transfer should take
10	place immediately.
11	We must protect also the families, the
12	families that have mortgages to pay, schools to
13	pay, and care for the people in our community.
14	It is imperative that this move be done
15	immediately and swiftly, and I approve the
16	transfer and the Certificate of Need as soon as
17	possible.
18	Thank you very much.
19	(Applause.)
20	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Shirley Brown.
21	MS. BROWN: Hello, everyone. My name
22	is Shirley Brown, S-h-i-r-l-e-y, B-r-o-w-n.
23	I have worked as a housekeeper at Westlake
24	Hospital for almost 15 years. I also have been a

patient of Westlake. I live in Bellwood, a part of Westlake's service area, so I speak as an employee, a patient, and a resident of a neighborhood that relies on Westlake.

I urge the Board to require Vanguard Health Systems to keep Westlake Hospital open for a minimum of 10 years. This is the only way the Board can make sure there will continue to be hospital services available to the thousands of people who come to Westlake for care every year.

It is important that the Board understands who Westlake serves. 20 percent of Westlake patients are Latino, and over 40 percent are African-American. In 2008, 33 percent of our patients were on Medicaid. So Westlake serves a large share of minority and low-income residents. They deserve a high-quality, well-run, conveniently located hospital.

But the terms of the sale of Westlake to

Vanguard make that very uncertain. Vanguard has

failed to provide a commitment to keep our

hospital open for more than two years. Two years

is not a serious commitment to our hospital or

our community.

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1	(Applause.)
2	MS. BROWN: In its deal to buy
3	Detroit Medical Center, Vanguard has committed to
4	keep the eight hospitals in the system open for
5	10 years. If Vanguard can provide a 10-year
6	commitment to Detroit, why not in the
7	Chicago area?
8	(Applause.)
9	MS. BROWN: If Vanguard is serious
10	about making Westlake a good and profitable
11	hospital, then they should sit down and talk with
12	employees. Because we are the front lines. We
13	can help identify ways of saving money, improving
14	quality, and better serving our community and
15	patients.
16	By respecting the voices of employees that
17	have been unheard for so many years, I feel that
18	working together we can make Westlake a great
19	hospital for the patients, the employees and the
20	community.
21	(Applause.)
22	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Ronald Serpico.
23	MR. SERPICO: Good morning. Good
24	morning, Sisters.

I am Ron Serpico. I've been the mayor of Melrose Park now for 13 years. And I heard testimony that Westlake started 85 years ago, which is the same year my father was born two blocks from here in a house. They couldn't afford to go to the hospital at that time.

I've listened to the testimony today. I have had the opportunity to visit with people from both sides of the argument, and sitting here as — standing here as someone responsible for a whole community, I'm cognizant of the fact — and I guess obviously being partial to Melrose Park, I'm cognizant of the fact of who we represent and who takes care of people at Westlake Hospital.

I personally am a patient of Westlake

Hospital, and my doctor at one point -- I think

he's one of the speakers here today -- had the

opportunity to speak with other employees. Many

I saw today I know personally. I've had an

opportunity to speak with representatives of

the Union.

It's a very difficult time. It's a difficult time to try to ensure quality health care for the people that we have and also to try

36 to sustain the employment for all of the hard 1 working people of Westlake Hospital. The problem we have is we have a reality of 3 a situation; we have a reality of an economy; we 4 have a reality with the State of Illinois which I think by all accounts is probably one of the 7 worst, if not the worst, on making their payments. 8 So I am here today in balancing all of that 9 out to say that -- and as some people have said 10 as employees, as patients of the hospital -- I'm 11 here to express my support of the transfer of the ownership of Westlake to Vanguard Health Care 12 13 System. 14 (Applause.) MR. SERPICO: Westlake, again, as I 15 16 indicated, has been here for 85 years. Our 17 residents depend on the quality of care that's 18 known to be given. I'm pleased to hear that the 19 hospital will remain in our community, which is 20 really essential. And time frames have been 21 bantered around -- I've been kicking this around 22 in my head, and I know it's difficult, but I'm 23 convinced at this point in time that Vanguard 24 will support the vital services and keep the jobs

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1	and keep us moving forward.
2	So I'm here today to express my support to
3	the Illinois State Health Facilities and Services
4	Review Board during the Certificate of Need
5	process.
6	Thank you.
7	(Applause.)
8	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Bernice I'm
9	not sure. I think it's G-r-a-u or L. I'm not
10	exactly sure.
11	MS. GRAU: (Through Interpreter)
12	Good morning. My name is Bernice Grau. I've
13	been a worker at West Suburban Medical Center for
14	1 year and at Resurrection Medical Center for
15	15 years.
16	It is very important for the Review Board
17	to require Vanguard to keep West Suburban Medical
18	Center open for at least 10 years.
19	(Applause.)
20	MS. GRAU: (Through Interpreter)
21	Thousands of patients and 1700 employees depend
22	on West Suburban. There has already been much
23	disruption at this hospital over the last 10 years.
24	We deserve a commitment to effective and caring

management for the next 10 years.

Since I've been a young child I've been working really hard, and I've had jobs that have been really hard, as well. I've also worked hard to stand up for what I believe is right. That is why I've worked to form a union at Resurrection so employees could have a voice, especially in a situation like this where we deserve a say in the future of the hospitals.

That is why I wanted to testify today.

What Vanguard is proposing for West Suburban

Medical Center is not right. Once again, I

specify that it's not right that there isn't a

compromise that's at least 10 years.

We don't feel that it's just that we can't have a justification with management about our employment rights and our future, and I don't think that it's just that there isn't an agreement with patients that they can't depend on these hospitals for the long term.

That's why, on behalf of my coworkers at West Suburban, we ask that this Board make the right decision that takes in mind not only the community but also the workers at West Suburban.

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1	(Applause.)
2	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Brian Lemon.
3	MR. LEMON: Good morning. My name is
4	Brian Lemon, B-r-i-a-n, L-e-m-o-n. I'm the chief
5	executive officer of MacNeal Hospital, a
6	community teaching hospital in Berwyn.
7	MacNeal, as you've already heard, became
8	part of Vanguard Health Systems in the year 2000.
9	I've spent 23 of the last 27 years as a member of
10	the management team at MacNeal, including 17 years
11	prior to its becoming part of Vanguard and 5 years
12	following. So I know and have known MacNeal
13	Hospital directly and intimately both before and
14	after its conversion from a freestanding,
15	not-for-profit hospital to being part of a
16	multihospital investor-owned system. I also live
17	in the community served by MacNeal less than a
18	mile from the hospital and have since 1990.
19	My point in giving you this background is I
20	have direct experience and a personal stake in
21	some of the issues or concerns that have been
22	raised by West Suburban and Westlake becoming
23	part of Vanguard health systems.
24	The specific concern I'd like to address at

this hearing has to do with Vanguard's commitment to charity care. By charity care I mean health care services provided to folks who have either no health insurance or inadequate health insurance and cannot pay for the services they receive.

The amount of charity care provided by hospitals has been a topic of great interest, debate, and concern for a number of years now.

Tax exempt hospitals have been criticized for not providing enough charity care to justify the privilege of not paying property taxes, and I would add unjustly criticized. On the flip side, investor-owned hospitals that do pay property taxes are incorrectly perceived as not providing charity care.

The notion that investor-owned hospitals turn their backs on people in need and refuse to provide care is one of the most damaging and widely held misperceptions out there. Some people seem to take great personal satisfaction in sneering at an organization like Vanguard and promoting the notion that a for-profit company will, by definition, not provide free care to

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1	those in need.
2	The reality is that all hospitals, whether
3	organized as not-for-profit or investor-owned,
4	are organizations of, by, and for the communities
5	that they serve.
6	Our mission at MacNeal and Vanguard is,
7	simply stated, to help people achieve health for
8	life. Crucial to our success in delivering on
9	this mission is that we make a commitment to our
10	communities, and key to that commitment is being
11	part of the social services and health care
12	fabric that takes care of people in need.
13	I'd now like to share some facts with you
14	about charity care.
15	3 1/2 years ago, in December of 2006, the
16	Congressional Budget Office published an analysis
17	of the rates of uncompensated care provided by
18	nonprofit hospitals as compared to investor-owned
19	hospitals. The CBO study found a difference of
20	only 6/10ths of 1 percent. In other words,
21	virtually no difference in the amount of
22	uncompensated care provided by the two types of
23	hospitals.
24	Six months ago Crain's Chicago Business

published this article that has been referred to earlier this morning that analyzed the rates of charity care provided by Chicago area nonprofit hospitals and investor-owned hospitals. Crain's highlighted the fact that local investor-owned hospitals provide as much and often more charity care as their nonprofit peers.

And the final fact that I can share with you is that at MacNeal the amount of charity care that we provide has actually increased during the years that MacNeal has been part of Vanguard Health Systems. In our current fiscal year ending this June 30th, I expect MacNeal to provide approximately \$3.6 million in charity care. This figure is stated at cost. In other words, that is the cost of the free care that we will provide.

In conclusion, I would ask, will having
West Suburban and Westlake becoming part of
Vanguard Health Systems result in a decrease in
charity care these hospitals provide to their
community? And I think I've demonstrated with
MacNeal's history and the facts that I've quoted
that the answer to that question is no.

Thank you for your time and attention today.

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1	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Margie Schaps.
2	MS. SCHAPS: Thank you very much. My
3	name is Margie Schaps, S-c-h-a-p-s. I'm the
4	executive director of the Health and Medicine
5	Policy Research Group in Chicago, and I thank you
6	very much for giving me this opportunity to speak
7	before you.
8	I was a member of the state task force last
9	year that met for a little over a year to
10	redesign the Illinois Health Facilities Planning
11	Board that now is the Illinois Health Facilities
12	and Services Review Board.
13	Health and Medicine has a number of serious
14	concerns regarding the application for a change
15	of ownership. We urge the Board to set as a
16	condition of the permit a requirement that
17	Vanguard Health Systems maintain and operate
18	Westlake Hospital and West Suburban medical
19	center for a minimum of 10 years.
20	(Applause.)
21	MS. SCHAPS: While this condition
22	would not mitigate all of our concerns, it would
23	address the most serious. That is, ensuring
24	continued provision of medical services to

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1	residents in the service areas, particularly
2	residents with very limited alternatives for care.
3	For almost 30 years Health and Medicine has
4	operated as an independent, nonprofit center
5	driven by a singular mission: Formulating health
6	policy advocacy and health systems to enhance the
7	health of the public. The reason for our focus
8	is obvious. America's vast dysfunctional health
9	care system has lurched from crisis to crisis,
10	demand for services is growing, and as a result
11	of our aging population while spending on public
12	sector health care has declined.
13	In the last several years the Cook County
14	Bureau of Health Services has suffered
15	unprecedented budget cuts, clinic closures,
16	significant reduction of services, and long waits
17	for prescriptions and appointments for nonurgent
18	procedures. At the same time, the health care
19	safety net across the Chicago region is
20	deteriorating as fewer hospitals struggle to
21	serve an ever increasing number of people in need.
22	As the Federal health care reform
23	legislation unfolds over the next couple of years,
24	the need for community-based health services that

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1	can that people in the community can count on
2	will be ever greater.
3	In this context Resurrection Health Care's
4	plans to sell Westlake and West Suburban
5	Hospitals to for-profit Vanguard Health Systems
6	raises several questions:
7	First, if West Suburban and Westlake
8	Hospitals do not generate sufficient profits,
9	will Vanguard close the hospitals or certain
10	services such as maternity or emergency
11	departments?
12	Some years ago Vanguard purchased Phoenix
13	Memorial Hospital which served several low-income
14	communities. Residents were assured that the
15	mission and heritage of Phoenix Memorial would
16	continue under the new management.
17	Within a year Vanguard attempted to chose
18	the hospital's emergency room. In response, two
19	elected officials in Phoenix pressed Vanguard
20	Health Systems to help defray the projected
21	1.5 million it would have cost the three urgent
22	care clinics run by the Maricopa County if they
23	had to expand their hours to try to make up for
24	the loss of the emergency department.

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1	Vanguard halted its plan for closing the
2	emergency room but several years later closed the
3	hospital entirely and leased the space. During
4	that same period Vanguard was investing
5	significantly in its hospitals located in
6	Paradise Valley, an affluent suburb of Phoenix.
7	Similarly, after acquiring Louis Weiss
8	Memorial Hospital located here in Chicago in
9	partnership with the University of Chicago,
10	Vanguard closed the OB/GYN department.
11	Not surprisingly, these cases have added to
12	the concerns of residents in the West Suburban
13	and Westlake Hospital service areas.
14	Unfortunately, Vanguard has not chosen to address
15	these concerns by providing a long-term
16	commitment to maintain and operate these
17	hospitals. While Vanguard has recently announced
18	it would keep Detroit Medical Center open for at
19	least 10 years, the corporation has only
20	committed to operating Westlake and West Suburban
21	for two years, less than three years stipulated
22	in the Board's rules regarding change of
23	ownership.
24	Second, has Resurrection Health Care

47 behaved responsibly to the communities that rely 1 on West Suburban and Westlake Hospitals? In the application to the Board for change 3 of ownership there is no indication that Resurrection actively pursued a nonprofit purchaser for these hospitals. The purchase 7 agreement references consideration of several 8 alternatives, but apparently the Resurrection 9 board chose not to contact any of the financially 10 viable health care networks here in Chicago or 11 nationally. Also of note in these applications is the 12 13 very modest sale price for the two hospitals, 14 less than half the value set for the hospitals 15 when they were purchased by Resurrection. Given 16 the very low price negotiated, it would seem that 17 Resurrection could have at leased secured serious 18 commitment to the future operation of Westlake 19 and West Suburban. 20 Finally, how would the closing or change in 21 services at these two hospitals impact residents 22 in the service areas? This question cannot be 23 answered until there is consensus and clarity on 24 a health plan for the region.

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1	An essential feature of the revised
2	Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act is the
3	creation of the Center for Comprehensive Health
4	Planning empowered to create such a plan over the
5	next several years. The Board is required to
6	make decisions consistent with the findings of
7	the Comprehensive Health Plan.
8	By requiring Vanguard to commit to
9	maintaining services at West Suburban and
10	Westlake Hospitals for 10 years, the Board will
11	be taking a responsible step toward ensuring that
12	the hospital does not close prior to a
13	comprehensive evaluation of the health care needs
14	in the area.
15	Thank you for your consideration.
16	(Applause.)
17	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Frank Molinaro.
18	MR. MOLINARO: My name is
19	Frank Molinaro, M-o-l-i-n-a-r-o. I am the chief
20	executive officer at Weiss Memorial Hospital.
21	Over the last six years it has been my
22	privilege to see the collaborative efforts
23	between Vanguard as owners of the physical assets
24	of Weiss and the medical staff and employee

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1	workforce who are the owners of the heart and
2	soul of Weiss. This collaboration has
3	transferred Weiss over the last several years
4	from a struggling hospital into a vibrant leader
5	in the community with a very positive future.
6	Over the last eight years Vanguard has
7	provided Weiss just under \$60 million in total
8	funding to stabilize and improve the facility and
9	its operations. More importantly, Vanguard has
10	given Weiss a long range vision, a set of values
11	to operate under, and the freedom to the
12	physicians and employees to make Weiss a place
13	that we are all very proud of.
14	At the same time, our employees and
15	physicians have assumed ownership of the culture
16	at Weiss, which has resulted in major advancements
17	in our safety, quality, and service levels. So
18	much so that we are now recognized as having
19	industry best practices in many different areas.
20	Recently concerns were raised regarding the
21	"deemed" status of MacNeal and Weiss. MacNeal
22	nor Weiss has ever been limited in their ability
23	to admit and treat Medicare or Medicaid patients.
24	Nevertheless, I wanted to take this opportunity

to address any confusion regarding the deemed status of the two facilities.

In order to remain qualified to receive payments from the Federal government for their services to Medicare and Medicaid patients, all hospitals must meet the "Medicare Conditions of Participation" as established by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

A hospital may demonstrate its compliance with the "Medicare Conditions of Participation" by undergoing a survey of accreditation by the CMS or a state survey such as IDPH.

A third option available is to seek deemed status accreditation through CMS approved accrediting institutions who have received special designation from CMS, the most recognized of which is the Joint Commission.

Because of the limited resources of CMS and state survey agencies, they tend to limit their top priorities to complaint investigations, validation surveys, and infrastructure work.

This leaves the deemed status organization designated by CMS as the preferred accreditation path for most hospitals.

Simply put, a hospital operating under deemed status is surveyed under an approved nongovernmental entity such as the Joint Commission in place of CMS or a State survey agency.

If at any time a hospital does not meet all

If at any time a hospital does not meet all the Medicare conditions of participation, that hospital's survey jurisdiction can revert back to CMS or a State survey agency such as IDPH. This means that the hospital does not have deemed status during the time the deficiencies with the building or operations are being addressed.

I found this to be a fairly common occurrence here in Illinois. As a matter of fact, on April 7th, 2010, over 20 percent of the hospitals in Illinois were under the survey jurisdiction of IDPH, including some of the most highly regarded facilities in the state.

Because of the age of many of the hospitals in Illinois and the significant cost of getting the hospitals compliant with the most recent fire codes and other regulations, it can often take months or years to address all deficiencies.

Typically hospitals submit corrective

action plans with timetables of completion to IDPH. Once IDPH chooses to accept the action plans, they will conduct periodic on-site surveys over the time period to validate the hospital's progress on its action plan.

Once IDPH has verified full completion of the action plan, they will notify CMS, and deemed status will be restored. As long as hospitals achieve the progress stated on their action plans, CMS allows them to participate in the Medicare program. Most hospitals choose to maintain their voluntary participation with the Joint Commission while at the same time working to complete their action plans under the survey jurisdiction of IDPH.

So with regard to specifics of MacNeal and Weiss' deemed status:

MacNeal Hospital was surveyed by IDPH in May of 2009. There were deficiencies noted by the surveyor that stemmed from a 1983 building being reviewed against updated life safety codes for the first time in 2009.

The plan to address those deficiencies has been approved by IDPH. The expected cost is

53 \$900,000, and the expected completion date is 1 July of 2011. Once IDPH has verified to CMS that 3 those corrections have been completed as per the corrective action plan, it is expected that MacNeal's deemed status will be returned. Prior to its acquisition in 2002, Weiss 7 Hospital was owned and operated by the University During a survey conducted by IDPH in 8 of Chicago. May of 1998, over 400 deficiencies were identified. 9 Most of the deficiencies were related to building 10 11 improvements. 12 As a result of the deficiencies, survey 13 jurisdiction was moved to IDPH, and the responsibility of carrying out the corrective 14 15 action plan was assumed by Vanguard Health 16 Systems when it acquired Weiss in 2002. Vanquard Health Systems has invested 17 18 \$26 million since 2002 to bring the facility up 19 to code. However, further deficiencies have been 20 discovered during these efforts, and as a result 21 the facility has been under the survey 22 jurisdiction of IDPH on three occasions since it

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in April of 2009.

was acquired in 2002 with the most recent being

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1	The current plan of correction for further
2	building improvements is scheduled to be
3	completed by November 2010 with an estimated cost
4	of \$120,000. IDPH has accepted our plan of
5	correction and is monitoring our progress.
6	The key points I'd like to reinforce
7	include:
8	At no time since acquisition has Weiss or
9	MacNeal been excluded from participation in the
10	Medicare program. More than 34 percent of
11	MacNeal's admissions are Medicare patients, and
12	more than 80 percent of the patients Weiss serves
13	are either Medicare or Medicaid.
14	Both Weiss and MacNeal have maintained
15	their accreditation with the Joint Commission.
16	They are currently both fully accredited and
17	compare very favorably with state and national
18	benchmarks.
19	I appreciate the opportunity to address any
20	confusion about the deemed status of Weiss and
21	MacNeal and look forward to welcoming West
22	Suburban and Westlake into Vanguard's Chicagoland
23	family.
24	(Applause.)

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1	HEARING OFFICER HALL: The following
2	speakers that will come to give testimony I'm
3	going to have to ask that you cut it down to
4	three minutes.
5	The next speaker is Marcia Moore.
6	MS. MOORE: Good morning, everyone.
7	I'll keep it very short.
8	My name is Marcia Moore. I've been working
9	at Westlake for eight years. I'm grateful that
10	Vanguard had bought Westlake Hospital.
11	I would just like to say we need to keep
12	our jobs at least 10 years. I'm a single mother
13	of seven kids, and I know a lot of people here
14	are worried about their jobs, also. We just need
15	to pray and ask God for all of us to come
16	together and let's make it work.
17	Teamwork, that's what Westlake told us; we
18	are a team. So when Vanguard comes, we want to
19	be a team, too, but we need to know are we going
20	to keep our jobs more than 60 days. I don't want
21	to be unemployed. Everybody's got bills;
22	everybody's got mortgages. One day I would like
23	to buy me a house.
24	So I'm asking you all, please, let's come

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1	together. Let's do this. You know, let's have
2	faith, let's teach us to be responsible, do
3	what's right and always keep our job first.
4	So let's come together. That's all I have
5	to say.
6	(Applause.)
7	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Claudio Holzer.
8	MR. HOLZER: Good morning to
9	everyone. Buenos días, el todos. Bongiorno.
10	First, I want to say, to see so many people
11	today for this is important because you care,
12	because we care. The only time I saw so many
13	people in this place is when we have a good time
14	dancing. That means we are here for one reason.
15	We want the best for the future for the hospital.
16	Let me say, I am Father Claudio Holzer. I
17	am the pastor of the two largest Catholic churches
18	in Melrose Park. I am the dean of 15 churches
19	between Oak Park and Northlake, so affecting the
20	two hospitals that we are talking about.
21	And I can say in Melrose Park 80, 85 percent
22	of the population is Catholic. If there is
23	someone here who hates to see a Catholic
24	institution to go, it's me definitely. And I

hate to say it, I don't like the fact that, you know, this institution, Westlake, is not going to be part of the Catholic Health System any longer.

Also, as a citizen -- as a citizen I want to say a few things. First of all, I look to see the good in everybody, not in the Catholic church, not in the Catholic people. And according to my knowledge, Vanguard is going to provide that.

I have a statement from them saying,

Vanguard Health Systems absolutely will maintain
the critical elements this institution provides
for our community. Vanguard has stated that it
would continue community outreach programs and
charity care levels provided by Westlake Hospital
while it was under the direction of Resurrection
Health Care. It is what I care about.

I really believe that the Sisters making this decision was a tough one but a necessary one. Because they came in this town a few years ago because they want to take care of the people, but also they can see that this hospital can face closure, that this hospital can be closed like last week another Catholic hospital in the heart

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1	of Manhattan knows, and now there is nobody
2	working there, nobody can take care of it and
3	this is a shame.
4	I'd like to commend Vanguard for being with
5	us, and I want every single one of you in the
6	future to work together and to make this
7	community a stronger one. Thank you.
8	(Applause.)
9	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Margaret Lyons.
10	MS. LYONS: Hello. My name is
11	Margaret Lyons, and I am here to read a letter
12	from Consumers Union to the Illinois Health
13	Facilities and Services Review Board.
14	"We write this letter to comment on the
15	proposed sale of two Resurrection Health Care
16	hospitals and an outpatient facility to Vanguard
17	Health Systems, Incorporated. Consumers Union,
18	the nonprofit publisher of Consumer Reports
19	Magazine, is a mutual consumer advocacy
20	organization that has monitored the conversion of
21	nonprofit hospitals, HMOs, and insurance
22	companies, such as Blue Cross and Blue Shield, to
23	for-profit status for over 20 years.
24	"We seek to ensure that charitable assets

are fully preserved and that the health care services are fully maintained when these transactions occur.

"In a letter we sent last month, Consumers
Union urged the Illinois Attorney General to
exercise oversight in this important transaction
to ensure that the public is receiving fair
market value and the health community is
protected. We now urge the HFSRB to apply the
review criteria provided for under the Illinois
Health Facilities Act to the pending Certificate
of Need applications for change of ownership of
the Resurrection facilities and to approve these
current applications only if Vanguard agrees to
the specific provisions to protect the interests
of patients, employees, and the communities these
hospitals serve.

"Specifically, we believe the current application should only be approved if Vanguard complies with the following conditions:

"Vanguard should pay for and submit to an independent evaluation. The Applicants should create an independent foundation with the sale proceeds. Vanguard should pay for an independent

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1	impact analysis excuse me health impact
2	analysis, which means that the HFSRB should
3	contract with an expert to conduct an independent
4	impact health analysis and that it should
5	reimburse HFSRB for the cost of this analysis.
6	"According to the National Health Care
7	policy, the most likely scenario in this type of
8	transaction is that the for-profit will eliminate
9	those specific services that operated at a loss
10	or that are not in some way inextricably linked
11	to the hospital's operational or financial
12	viability.
13	"Vanguard should be required to maintain
14	certain minimal levels of services in perpetuity.
15	Vanguard should be required to make concrete
16	commitments to provide for the health care needs
17	of the uninsured and patients on Medicaid.
18	"And, finally, Vanguard should be required
19	to maintain current staff and compensation
20	packages. Vanguard must commit to continue the
21	current employees and current staffing levels.
22	If Vanguard eliminates any of the current jobs or
23	reduces staffing levels, there may be a
24	significant impact on the operation of the

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1	hospital patient care and the local economy.
2	"In conclusion, we urge you to hold a
3	thorough and transparent review process to
4	protect the charitable assets and health of the
5	community."
6	Thank you.
7	(Applause.)
8	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Dr. Glenn
9	Kushner.
10	MR. KUSHNER: My name is Dr. Glenn
11	Glenn, G-l-e-n-n, Kushner, K-u-s-h-n-e-r, and I
12	have been on the medical staff at Westlake
13	Hospital for 25 years. I am the president of the
14	medical staff. In addition to my support, I can
15	assure you that my colleagues support the
16	Certificate of Need application. Our medical
17	staff is committed to providing the highest level
18	of patient care possible for generations to come.
19	I would like to thank the senior leadership
20	team of Westlake Hospital for asking me to
21	publicly announce my support of this application.
22	Westlake Hospital has been serving the
23	community of Melrose Park since 1927. Through
24	strong partnerships with physicians and the

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1	community we have been able to provide programs
2	that improve the health and well-being of our
3	community. We recognize that Resurrection Health
4	Care is no longer able to support Westlake
5	Hospital and its other entities and provide the
6	much-needed capital investments the hospital
7	needs to remain a viable resource in the
8	community.
9	We are confident that the Vanguard Health
10	Systems will be able to continue our tradition of
11	compassionate and quality care while addressing
12	the capital needs of the hospital. As
13	physicians, we are dedicated to serving this
14	community and fully support the transfer of
15	ownership of Westlake Hospital to Vanguard Health
16	Systems, Inc. It is critical to the physicians
17	at Westlake Hospital and to this community that
18	you will provide an efficient and timely review
19	of this application so that we may continue
20	providing the care and service our community
21	needs and deserves.
22	Thank you for your time.
23	(Applause.)
24	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Oscar Garcia.

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	(No response.)
2	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Juana Herrera.
3	(No response.)
4	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Lorenzo Avelo.
5	(No response.)
6	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Joe Cotton.
7	MR. COTTON: Good morning. My name
8	is Joe Cotton. I'm with AFSCME Council 31, and I
9	want to start by reminding all of us here what
10	the purpose of the Illinois Health Facilities
11	Planning Act is. It's to guarantee the
12	availability of quality health care to the
13	general public, to maintain and improve the
14	provision of essential health care services and
15	increase the accessibility of those services to
16	the medically underserved and indigent. And to
17	fulfill that purpose, the Act empowers the Health
18	Facilities and Services Review Board to
19	thoroughly review any applicant seeking to
20	acquire a community hospital.
21	We believe the record on Vanguard Health
22	raises a number of serious questions. On three
23	key review criteria, the Applicants have failed
24	to demonstrate that the proposed sale conforms to

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1	the regulations or the broader purpose of
2	the law.
3	The regulations require the Board to verify,
4	quote, "That the Applicant intends to maintain
5	ownership and control of the facility for a
6	minimum of three years." Yet, Vanguard Health
7	commits to continue operation of West Suburban
8	and Westlake for only two years. In order to
9	ensure compliance with the law's more general
10	purpose, we would urge the Board to require
11	Vanguard Health to operate Westlake Hospital for
12	a minimum of 10 years.
13	The access would be further compromised, we
14	believe, by the fact that the sale would allow
15	Vanguard Health to control 47 percent of all
16	short-term acute care hospital beds in the
17	planning area, creating conditions where the
18	system can significantly raise prices.
19	State regulations also require the Board to
20	consider whether adverse action has been taken
21	against the Applicant or against any health care
22	facility owned or operated by the Applicant.
23	Vanguard Health's two Illinois hospitals
24	are currently under State monitoring for serious

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1	violations of the Medicare conditions of
2	participation. The hospitals were cited by
3	public health authorities for failures related to
4	patient safety, infection control, and
5	cleanliness violations clearly related to
6	short staffing for nurses, nurses' aids, techs
7	and housekeepers. Specific violations included:
8	Understaffing in the labor and delivery unit,
9	infection control violations on the operating
10	room, and unsanitary conditions in the
11	emergency room.
12	Regulations require the Applicant to
13	demonstrate that it has the financial resources
14	to adequately provide a proper standard of health
15	care for the community. In Illinois, Vanguard
16	Health's two hospitals lost \$69 million over the
17	past three years.
18	Vanguard disclosures to investors state,
19	"Our high level of debt may adversely affect our
20	operations." The low-cushion ratio reported in
21	the CON application is further indication that
22	the system is stretched thin and may not have the
23	resources to invest in Westlake Hospital.
24	Vanguard Health's plan to spend

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1	\$1.5 billion to acquire Detroit Medical Center
2	system and up to \$115 million to build a new
3	hospital in Texas are likely to further strain
4	its finances.
5	We urge the Board to require Vanguard
6	Health to address the deficiencies in this
7	application in these three areas.
8	I also wanted to take a minute to share
9	with you a letter we got from State Senator
10	Kim Lightford. She supports the application but
11	urges inclusion of a 10-year commitment to keep
12	the hospitals open. We are submitting a copy of
13	that letter to the Board.
14	Thank you.
15	(Applause.)
16	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Jane Stenske.
17	MS. STENSKE: Good morning. My name
18	is Jane Stenske, J-a-n-e, S-t-e-n-s-k-e. I am
19	the vice president of patient care services and
20	the chief nursing officer at Westlake Hospital.
21	I've been with Westlake Hospital for seven
22	years. I am here today as a nurse leader and can
23	tell you that the nursing staff at Westlake
24	Hospital supports the transfer of ownership of

Westlake Hospital from Resurrection Health Care to Vanguard Health Systems, Incorporated.

We have been fortunate to have the support of both Resurrection Health Care and the Westlake foundation for 12 years. It is with their support that we've been able to enhance key patient care services and provide extensive community health and wellness programs. However, we understand that Resurrection Health Care can no longer support the financial losses at Westlake Hospital and provide the resources needed to continue our work with and for our community.

It is also clear our community relies on us to receive much-needed medical care more than ever. We have seen an increase in the number of patients in our emergency department during the past few years. Many patients are turning to us for treatment help to lead healthier lives.

We have confidence that the transfer of ownership to Vanguard Health Systems will provide us with the continued opportunity to provide quality health care to the residents of Melrose Park and Proviso Township communities.

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1	I appreciate the opportunity to voice my
2	support for the transfer of ownership of Westlake
3	Hospital. I also respectfully request the
4	Board's efficient and timely review of this
5	application to ensure much-needed medical care to
6	the patients in our community continue.
7	Thank you very much.
8	(Applause.)
9	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Linda Ollin.
10	(No response.)
11	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Esther Corpuz.
12	MS. CORPUZ: Good morning. Buenos
13	días. My name is Esther Corpuz, E-s-t-h-e-r,
14	C-o-r-p-u-z. I'm the executive director for
15	external affairs at MacNeal Hospital. I want to
16	thank you for allowing me to testify today in
17	support of the Certificate of Need application.
18	I work with community-based organizations,
19	residents, businesses, faith leaders, and elected
20	officials. I was originally hired at MacNeal
21	prior to the change of ownership, and I recently
22	celebrated 15 years with the hospital.
23	I understand and respect the opportunity
24	these hearings give to the community who care

about their hospitals, and I really appreciate so many of you coming out in support of this hearing.

Growing up in the Pilsen neighborhood, I was proudly raised in a traditional Mexican household, and I have dedicated my professional life to health care that is centered in the community. I believe in institutions that set high standards of care for all individuals and who are treated with respect and dignity and without regard to their ability to pay for service.

Working at MacNeal has been an extension of that commitment. Like the entire Vanguard network nationwide, we are focusing on earning lifelong relationships with our patients and helping them stay healthy throughout every stage of their lives. We also recognize the unique differences in each community we serve and work tirelessly to meet their needs.

For example, MacNeal recognized the need to address the changing demographics of its rapidly emerging Latino-Mexican patient population. The hospital has continually demonstrated its

commitment to serving the needs of patients and families by funding community-based organizations and working to increase the bilingual, bicultural workforce that reflects the makeup of the patients we serve. At the same time, for hard-to-fill positions, MacNeal utilizes on-site, paid, professional medical interpreters to assist with communication needs, an investment that many hospitals still do not provide.

Over the years I have participated in many projects that have advanced MacNeal's mission -- which I personally share -- of giving back to the communities we serve.

For example, these past several years I have served on the executive board of directors for Alivio Medical Center, an organization which MacNeal partnered with in 2008 to expand and open a new community health center in Cicero. MacNeal paid for the renovation of the facility and paid for the first year lease expense.

Alivio is committed to caring for Chicago's uninsured and underinsured and serves over 21,000 patients each year. We will continue to work and support Alivio in our shared mission for

71 providing health care to our community. 1 plans for a health center on campus of MacNeal and Weiss are underway. This year Alivio 3 celebrated its 21st anniversary, and MacNeal looks forward to a healthy partnership in the future. 7 Another project that I personally feel connected to is the launch of a health careers 8 9 program at the Latino National Education Institute, which I serve as the board chair. 10 11 fact, with us today are students who are in our medical assisting program who are attending 12 13 today's hearing as part of their medical law and ethics class. The school provides career 14 training and job placement for the Latino 15 16 community. 17 Under Vanquard Health's ownership, MacNeal 18 assisted with securing a \$125,000 grant to build 19 a clinical lab to get the program off the ground. 20 Today, MacNeal physicians and nurses regularly 21 lecture at NLEI and provide career guidance and coaching to students, many of whom eventually 22 23 secure jobs at MacNeal. 24 The partnership is extremely beneficial to

both MacNeal and the institute. Together we hope to grow the much-needed bilingual, bicultural workforce in hospitals throughout Chicagoland.

The list goes on: MacNeal fitness center at the Pav YMCA, the \$21,000 the hospitals raised for the American Heart Association, and the over \$6,000 for the American Cancer Society. In addition, we have sponsored numerous neighborhood events such as the Roosevelt Road Street Fair, Octoberfest, Latino Book and Family Fair, and we support annual fundraisers and dinners for many churches and local community groups.

In the coming months MacNeal will join

First Lady Michelle Obama, community leaders,

teachers, doctors, nurses, moms and dads in a

nationwide campaign to tackle the challenge of

childhood obesity.

It's been my experience working for

Vanguard's MacNeal, a for-profit hospital, that I

am supported and our community is supported, as

well. They have demonstrated this commitment not

only in their mission statement but with true

financial resources for the agencies and the

people we serve.

73 At MacNeal we firmly believe in Vanquard 1 Health's overall mission to provide quality care 3 not only to the hospital but encouraging a healthy lifestyle. I have seen Vanguard Health's commitment to Chicago firsthand. If one hospital can do so much to improve life in our city, just 7 imagine what adding two more hospitals to our family could mean for Chicago. 8 9 Thank you. 10 (Applause.) 11 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Donald Cervone. 12 MR. CERVONE: Good morning. My name 13 is Donald Cervone, C-e-r-v-o-n-e. I have lived in Melrose Park my entire life. I'm here to 14 15 share my support of the transfer of Westlake 16 Hospital to Vanguard Health Systems. 17 I am a patient of Westlake Hospital, and my 18 cardiologist is on staff at Westlake. I have a 19 complicated heart condition and have been 20 receiving care at Westlake Hospital for the past 21 30 years. Because I have been there so often, 22 people in numerous departments know me by my 23 To the staff at Westlake, I am Donnie and name. 24 a special patient of Dr. Eshaghy.

I have had everything from basic lab work to carotid artery to open heart surgery at Westlake. I have always received excellent care at Westlake. Westlake has been part of my life and now part of my children's life. As a matter of fact, two of my grandchildren were born at Westlake.

Given my heart condition, I have been to other hospitals, including Mayo Clinic. Even there they told me that the plan of treatment I have been receiving is fine. This is why I come back. There is no other hospital that I want to go to for my treatment. There are great hospitals out there, but the treatment and care and the warmth that I receive at Westlake is unmatchable.

As long as I have been alive, Westlake
Hospital is in our community, and I have
witnessed the growth of the hospital over the
years. I would really hate to see it go.
Westlake is an important part of the community.

I urge the Board to efficiently and quickly approve this application so that Westlake
Hospital can be here for generations to come.

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1	Thank you.
2	(Applause.)
3	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Rick Beltrame.
4	MS. SAVIOZZI: Good morning. My name
5	is Andrea Saviozzi, S-a-v-i-o-z-z-i. I'm the
6	nurse manager from the Westlake emergency
7	department. I'm reading this testimony on behalf
8	of Richard A. Beltrame, B-e-l-t-r-a-m-e, fire
9	chief for the Melrose Park Fire Department.
10	"My name is Richard A. Beltrame. I have
11	been a firefighter with the Village of Melrose
12	Park for 29 years and have served as a fire chief
13	for the last 5 of those years.
14	"I am here today to support the Certificate
15	of Need application for the transfer of ownership
16	of Westlake Hospital to Vanguard Health Systems,
17	Incorporated:
18	"As an emergency responder, I believe the
19	presence of Westlake Hospital is critical to the
20	safety of the community. The residents of our
21	community need to be assured that emergency care
22	is close to home. Continued emergency services
23	as currently provided by the hospital are vital.
24	"I believe the transfer of ownership to

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1	Vanguard Health Systems, Inc., will help Westlake
2	Hospital to continue providing health care
3	emergency services in our community. I
4	respectfully urge the Board to ensure an
5	efficient and timely review of this application
6	so emergency services for our community are not
7	in any way interrupted or discontinued.
8	"Thank you for your time. Respectfully
9	submitted, Richard A. Beltrame."
10	(Applause.)
11	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Caren Perlmuter.
12	MS. PERLMUTER: Good morning. My
13	name is Caren Perlmuter, and I am vice president
14	of development and community at Weiss Memorial
15	Hospital. I appreciate the opportunity to
16	provide testimony today in support of the
17	Certificate of Need application.
18	I have been working at Weiss Hospital for
19	three years and serve as the interface with the
20	community and lead our community outreach
21	efforts. I feel very lucky to be working for
22	Vanguard Health Systems in this capacity and
23	appreciate the support it has provided to me and
24	my colleagues in serving our community.

As a former nursing home administrator,

I've learned that health care is a community

responsibility. Vanguard Health Systems truly

stands for "Health for Life," our stated mission.

In the last several years at Weiss, we have been able to build a community outreach program that promotes wellness, health education, and focuses on disease prevention. We have added a senior center in the hospital, a geriatric social worker, and a community exercise program for seniors called "Weiss Moves" run by a dedicated exercise physiologist in 24 senior buildings. These additions have allowed us to hold 500 community events last year touching more than 8500 people.

Vanguard Health Systems is committed to the unique needs of each community in which we operate. We have regular meetings at the corporate level to exchange ideas and best practice on how to help our communities. Top of mind is our responsibility to be reliable community partners. This support has allowed us to create a senior initiative at Weiss Hospital that creates a community for seniors.

78 1 A few examples of the events: Monthly "lunch and learns," health fairs offering 3 screening and vaccinations, weekly exercise classes that are free of charge for all seniors, annual health events and senior celebration days, walking/knitting clubs, book club, just to 7 mention a few. At Weiss Hospital our goal is to work with 8 community organizations, senior centers, 9 religious institutions, and local governments to 10 meet the health needs of our patients not only at 11 the hospital but also when they are at home and 12 13 in the community. Our dialog with the local 14 communities is such that they can call us and know that they will get a response and 15 16 assistance. 17 Becoming part of Vanguard Health Systems 18 has afforded us the ability to grow and respond 19 to the changing health care environment. 20 day I am out in the community, and I see 21 firsthand the impact that we are having on the 22 residents of Weiss' surrounding neighborhoods. 23 Vanguard Health views these communities as 24 true partners in protecting and improving the

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1	health of our residents, and I'm certain that the
2	Oak Park and Melrose Park communities will also
3	experience similar benefits when this application
4	is approved.
5	Thank you so much for the opportunity to
6	speak today.
7	(Applause.)
8	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Chris Pope.
9	MS. POPE: My name is Christine Pope,
10	C-h-r-i-s-t-i-n-e, P-o-p-e.
11	Good morning, everyone. I'm the director
12	of the Interfaith Leadership Project. We're a
13	community organization serving the Cicero and
14	Berwyn communities. We're an organization made
15	up of local churches and businesses, and we work
16	together to build better communities and strengthen
17	all of our local institutions by trying to build
18	relationships and develop leadership and deepen
19	civic engagement in our area.
20	MacNeal Hospital has been one of our member
21	organizations and partners in this work for the
22	past 20 years. The hospital, over these years,
23	has changed hands, changed administrators, become
24	a for-profit institution, but it's always been an

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1	active member of ILP in the Cicero and Berwyn
2	communities.
3	Over the years MacNeal has been a partner
4	with Interfaith Leadership Project in working to
5	bring nonprofit community health clinics to the
6	area, expanding the family care program, and in
7	offering many community programs and have
8	hospital staff volunteers in many, many different
9	initiatives in the area.
10	So I just really wanted to say we were in
11	this position years ago when Vanguard Health
12	bought MacNeal and had the same concerns, and we
13	understand them. Those concerns have not turned
14	out to be founded, and so we just wanted to say
15	we're pleased to have MacNeal as one of our key
16	member organizations and look forward to this
17	continued work together for the betterment of our
18	communities.
19	Thank you.
20	(Applause.)
21	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Carmen Velasquez.
22	MS. VELASQUEZ: My name is
23	Carmen Velasquez, and I'm the executive director
24	of the Alivio Medical Center.

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81 Alivio is a bilingual, bicultural organization committed to providing access to quality, cost-effective health care to the Latino community, the uninsured, and underinsured and not to the exclusion of other cultures and races. For over two decades we have committed ourselves in our mission and our practice to serving Chicago's immigrant community, including the undocumented and those who all too often go neglected and ignored. Since first establishing the Alivio Medical Center in 1989 in Chicago's largest Latino and predominately Mexican communities of Pilsen, Little Village, Back of the Yards, and now operating in the Berwyn/Cicero neighborhoods, I have seen a lot of people come and go who say they care about our community but who, when we need them, they're usually nowhere to be found.

When we hear about hospitals changing hands and companies pledging to invest in our community, it is understandable for people to be skeptical, and, frankly, I am usually one of them. But that is not the case today.

I'm here to express my support for the

pending Certificate of Need application recently submitted by Resurrection Care to transfer ownership to West Suburban and Westlake Hospitals to Vanguard Health Systems.

I want to talk a little bit about my
personal experience with Vanguard Health and one
of its hospitals already doing great work here in
Chicago with Alivio.

As some of you know, Alivio has a strong partnership with MacNeal Hospital in Berwyn. We have worked together in recent years to provide health care for the uninsured and needy. I know that we always have a partner in MacNeal because the hospital doesn't have just a presence in our community, it has permanence.

We all know hospitals have different models of care, and community health centers are distinct. None of us can stand alone, and all of us must come together to address patient care. I have seen firsthand through the work we have done the commitment by the staff and administration at MacNeal have to our residents. I'd like to share a couple examples with you in addition to the financial resources.

Until recently MacNeal did not allow the practice of midwifery, "parteras," a model of care that many of our patients prefer over the traditional M.D. or OB/GYN. At the time MacNeal had no accredited midwifery providers, and we approached the administration about expanding the service with pregnant women and their families to include midwives.

MacNeal recognized the importance of this practice and worked with us to credential providers. We proudly became the first accredited midwifery program at MacNeal just in the last few months.

Women should have the ability to choose a model of care and the provider they want, and MacNeal's recognition of this important service and willingness to offer services that community residents ask for is reflective of the approach MacNeal and Vanguard Health take in meeting the needs of patients.

MacNeal is also a trusted partner of the Alivio Medical Center. They share their resources and work with us to train our medical and professional staffs and make us more

effective caregivers.

Finally, and most importantly, MacNeal works tirelessly with groups like mine to help patients find a medical home. This is especially true for those who have no alternative but to use the emergency room for their primary care needs.

I view Vanguard Health's desire to purchase West Suburban and Westlake as a welcome investment to our community and a sign of the system's continued commitment to the Chicagoland area. I know what the system is capable of and am excited that the neighbors and patients of West Suburban and Westlake will experience the same types of benefits that we have because of MacNeal.

From where I come, we look for people to not only say the right things but, more importantly, to do the right things. Vanguard Health has stepped up to the plate to meet the needs of patients. I urge the Board to do the same and approve this application. Our neighborhoods cannot afford to lose hospitals like West Suburban and Westlake. Too much is at stake for us not to do the right thing.

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1	Thank you.
2	(Applause.)
3	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Elba Aranda.
4	MS. ARANDA-SUH: My name is Elba,
5	E-l-b-a, Aranda E-l-b, as in boy, a,
6	A-r-a-n-d-a, dash, Suh, S-u-h. I am the proud
7	executive director of the National Latino
8	Education Institute, formerly known as the
9	Spanish Coalition for Jobs. The National Latino
10	Institute thanks the Board for the opportunity to
11	share our testimony today.
12	NLEI is a nonprofit 510(c)(3) community
13	organization that was founded in the late 1960s in
14	response to the Latino community's urgent need
15	for equal employment in our communities. Our
16	mission is to enhance the quality of life of the
17	Latino community through education and career
18	empowerment.
19	Our mission puts us at the crossroads of
20	education and employment in our communities. It
21	is from this platform that we support partners
22	who have proven their commitment to community
23	development and economic empowerment such as
24	Vanguard Health Systems' MacNeal Hospital.

Our job training, educational programming, and workforce services include several health care training programs, among others. Some of them are here with us today. Every year our constituency is equipped with the tools necessary to succeed in an increasingly competitive, multicultural, and service-oriented economy.

Through our programs, many have achieved an advanced quality of life and enjoy new careers in health care, affording them the opportunity to provide better education, shelter, and medical care for their families and ceasing the cycle of poverty. These programs would not have been possible without the support of loyal partners such as MacNeal Hospital.

MacNeal Hospital has established close and meaningful relationships with the communities it serves. Decision makers at MacNeal have made serious commitments reflecting their strategic investment of resources and their personal involvement as volunteers within our communities.

One of MacNeal's notable and demonstrated contributions to our community was their leadership in ensuring accessibility of quality

87 training for disadvantaged Latinos in a sector 1 that showed job and career growth promise -health care. 3 MacNeal understood the need and importance of equipping the Latino community for this rapidly growing sector as it provided the seeds for the 7 construction of a health care training lab that would launch the first bilingual/bicultural 8 9 certified medical assistant training education 10 program. MacNeal's campus served our students as 11 a learning site where students were able to utilize the library, met with MacNeal volunteer 12 13 health care professionals to understand career 14 paths and began their clinical training. 15 them are actually here today and have mentored 16 many of our students. Our students have gone on 17 to leadership positions in several health care institutions. 18 19 Our experience with MacNeal's community 20 impact is multi-faceted, but this one alone has 21 had profound and positive effects on many 22 families from helping us with wellness education, 23 working with us on community health fairs,

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mentorship, and continuing with our job training

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in health care.

I also want to add that MacNeal Hospital and its affiliates have been a responsible employer in responding to the bicultural and bilingual needs of their patients. MacNeal has had the foresight to better serve the growing Latino/Hispanic communities within their service delivery area by hiring bilingual and culturally sensitive professional and paraprofessional personnel beyond the cleaning and kitchen help.

This institution has invested in the training and development of their incumbent workforce, ensuring that patients and their families are able to communicate their health needs and so that services are well understood. This is a very vital factor in receiving quality health care.

Today our health care training and education offerings have blossomed because of the seeds that MacNeal planted for our bilingual medical assistant program as a demand for these skills continue.

For our communities to thrive, we must educate and empower our community to work in

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1	fields that promise growth. This has been possible
2	through the partnership with institutions such as
3	MacNeal Hospital, who have been at the forefront
4	of serving Cook County through innovative and
5	collaborative community-focused service delivery.
6	Thank you very much for your time.
7	(Applause.)
8	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Paul Zimmermann.
9	MR. ZIMMERMANN: Good morning it
10	is still morning; right?
11	My name is Paul Zimmermann, P-a-u-l,
12	Z-i-m-m-e-r-m-a-n-n. I come here in my role as
13	president of the board of directors of the Berwyn
14	Development Corporation as well as president of
15	the Roosevelt Road Business Association of
16	Berwyn, Cicero, and Oak Park. I also reside in
17	Oak Park with my wife, who is a midwife, a
18	partera, and with my two boys.
19	As a business leader in Berwyn for many
20	years, I am intimately familiar with the work
21	Vanguard Health's MacNeal Hospital does every day
22	to give back to the community it serves. I am
23	fully confident that if Vanguard Health acquires
24	West Suburban Hospital and becomes a member of

the Oak Park community, my community, they will demonstrate that same level of commitment.

I'm here today to support the pending

Certificate of Need application recently

submitted by Resurrection Health Care to transfer

control of West Suburban and Westlake Hospitals

to Vanguard Health Systems. I know about the

great work Vanguard Health already does and

believe these municipalities would benefit from

its continued growth.

Even more, I am concerned that if this application is not approved, then it is likely that the hospitals will have to close, meaning that my neighbors and I will be forced to search outside of our community for care.

For those of you not familiar with the Berwyn Development Corporation, we are a public-private partnership with the City of Berwyn that provides chamber services and encourages economic development throughout the city of Berwyn. Since joining in 2000, Vanguard Health has been an important member and has been very generous with its extraordinary level of community development.

Esther Corpuz, the executive director of

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1	MacNeal Hospital, has worked diligently for the
2	organizations since joining our board of
3	directors.
4	(Applause.)
5	MR. ZIMMERMAN: She currently is
6	cochair on our Latino business committee, which
7	conducts outreach to the Latino business
8	community, and she played an integral part in the
9	development of this important initiative. She
10	also regularly offers access to conference rooms
11	at the hospital and may I add with food
12	included? for members of our organization to
13	engage different community groups.
14	Since its inception MacNeal has sponsored
15	the Roosevelt Road Summer Spectacular Street
16	Fair, a family-oriented, multi-community event
17	offering residents the chance to come together
18	and enjoy the various activities our vibrant
19	communities have to offer. Now in its third
20	year, Vanguard Health's generosity makes this
21	event possible and demonstrates its commitment to
22	making Berwyn a better place to live and work.
23	These are just a few examples of the
24	various contributions Vanguard Health Systems has

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1	made to the community. I look forward to
2	welcoming them into Oak Park, my own back yard,
3	and watching what they will do to support and
4	enhance our community.
5	I urge the Commission to approve
6	Resurrection's Certificate of Need application
7	not only for the good of the people of Oak Park
8	but for the good of all Chicago.
9	Thank you very much.
10	(Applause.)
11	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Joan Polner.
12	MS. POLNER: Good morning. My name
13	is Joan Polner, J-o-a-n, P-o-l-n-e-r. I'm here
14	today on behalf of the YMCA of Berwyn-Cicero and
15	our executive director, John Usmial, who is
16	presently out of the country.
17	Many know our YMCA by our facility name,
18	the Pav YMCA. Our independent, single-branch
19	YMCA is located just north of Vanguard's MacNeal
20	Hospital on Oak Park Avenue in Berwyn.
21	As an area nonprofit with a mission to
22	improve the whole health of the individuals and
23	communities we serve, our YMCA's long-standing
24	partnership with MacNeal Hospital has been and

continues to be mutually beneficial and, in countless ways, priceless.

Years back when the hospital operated as a nonprofit institution, it offered various generous capital support of the Pav YMCA. This enabled us to build a much-needed addition to our YMCA facility which relocated and expanded our wellness center. Once completed, the hospital continued its support of our MacNeal Wellness Center with regular annual contributions to help underwrite the maintenance and necessary replacement of our fitness equipment from free weights to aerobic exercise machines.

With MacNeal Hospital's support we were able to serve a greater population with state-of-the-art equipment to meet the needs of a young marathon runner or weight lifter to a more mature clientele seeking to maintain or regain strength, range of motion, or balance.

When MacNeal changed ownership, its support of the Pav YMCA still continued with annual sponsorship for our Strong Kids Scholarship program, the support and attendance at our special event fundraisers, and membership on our

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1	board of directors and special committees.
2	Today two members of the MacNeal Hospital
3	staff, Esther Corpuz and Dean Hokel, sit on our
4	board. Additionally, MacNeal staff and doctors
5	often partner with our YMCA staff on various
6	wellness committees and health fairs in our
7	community.
8	It is this community partnership and the
9	personal commitment of MacNeal staff to our YMCA
10	which are certainly priceless.
11	Financially, the hospital's annual support
12	of our scholarship program improves our ability
13	to offer fee assistance to many individuals and
14	families so that they may participate in
15	healthier living through YMCA membership and
16	program participation.
17	MacNeal Hospital is an essential element of
18	the Berwyn community. They are ever present,
19	consistently supportive and truly invested in the
20	health and wellness of our community and its
21	residents.
22	From our perspective as a YMCA, we wouldn't
23	be nearly as strong and capable to serve the
24	needs of our community through our own mission

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1	work were it not for MacNeal Hospital's most
2	generous support and involvement.
3	We support the Certificate of Need
4	application to be approved so that West Suburban
5	and Westlake Hospitals can stay open and
6	organizations like ours in both communities can
7	experience similar benefits.
8	Thank you for the opportunity to speak
9	today on behalf of the YMCA in Berwyn-Cicero.
10	(Applause.)
11	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Debi Suchy.
12	MS. SUCHY: Good morning. My name is
13	Debi Suchy, D-e-b-i, S-u-c-h-y, and I have been a
14	resident of Berwyn for almost 40 years. I can't
15	tell you how pleased and supportive I am of
16	Vanguard Health's MacNeal Hospital.
17	MacNeal Hospital has had a positive
18	influence for as long as I can remember. It has
19	been a resource to our city, our health
20	department, our schools, and our park districts.
21	Their support to residents as well as to the
22	business community in Berwyn has been present
23	through numerous sponsorships of various programs
24	which my fellow residents and I have enjoyed.

MacNeal continues to work with the community on many levels and, as an individual who is active throughout Berwyn, I have seen their commitment our neighborhood over and over again.

I would be remiss not to mention the quality of service MacNeal gives to its patients.

I can personally attest to having been a patient myself on many occasions.

My first visit came when I was a child for a tonsillectomy. Since then at MacNeal I have experienced the birth of both of my children, major back surgery, minor outpatient surgeries, annual mammograms, and most recently an MRI which was done in a new addition to the radiology department. The MRI was a welcome change from having to be transported to an off-site facility.

Through all my experiences I have always felt I was given quality medical attention as well as wonderful customer service.

For these important reasons I support the
Certificate of Need application to transfer
ownership of Westlake and West Suburban Hospitals
to Vanguard. The people of Westlake and
West Suburban should enjoy the same level of

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1	service and care that we get from MacNeal in
2	Berwyn. More so, if this application is not
3	approved, these hospitals may close and services
4	in these areas would be eliminated.
5	There is absolutely no reason we should let
6	this happen. I can honestly say Vanguard
7	Health's MacNeal Hospital has not only met but
8	exceeded my expectations of quality care and
9	commitment to the community. I am confident
10	Vanguard will demonstrate the same commitment if
11	given the chance in additional Chicago
12	communities.
13	Thank you.
14	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Alexandra Sulik.
15	MS. SULIK: My name is Alexandra
16	Sulik, and I have recently completed eight years
17	of dedication and service to the MacNeal
18	community. I started as a patient care
19	technician and will soon begin practicing as
20	adult care nurse practitioner. However, my
21	intricate relationship with MacNeal started much
22	earlier than 2002.
23	MacNeal Hospital has made a commitment to
24	me since I was born. I was born at MacNeal in

1983, right before our south building opened up.

Ever since then my life has involved MacNeal in

every aspect of my being. Multiple family

members have had the pleasure to work for MacNeal

over the last 20 years.

My mother still serves the community
through MacNeal as a member of the management
team and has recently committed to her
self-development by enrolling for her bachelor of
science degree in nursing at Lewis University.
She has completed her bachelor of art degree a
few years back and has been a nurse for over
20 years. I am amazed that with such experience
she is more than willing to better herself for
the sake of her patients. Even her commitment to
educational excellence has been made possible
because of MacNeal's dedication to its employees.

After successfully completing the BSN program at Loyola Chicago, I passed my nursing boards and obtained my RN license. I began working as a nurse on the orthopedic unit in July 2005. Since then I have not thought of a better place to work other than MacNeal.

My coworkers, including a few that have

worked as staff nurses with my mother years ago, are compassionate, caring, skilled, and a wonderful educational resource. The various disciplines that I work with also demonstrate dedication to the health care of the community. We work excellently as a team and expect nothing less than the safest and best care for our patients. This type of work ethic can only be seen in organizations that truly demonstrate dedication to its employees.

MacNeal has also helped me obtain my orthopedic nursing certification and assisted me through my graduate program at Loyola University. The flexible scheduling and supportive management team allow me to focus on my studies. I have focused my studies to be adult nurse practitioner and will continue to serve MacNeal and its communities for many years to come.

I have been given the challenge of continuing the tradition MacNeal prides itself on -- commitment to safe, compassionate, and knowledgeable patient care. Giving me the opportunity to not only begin my education but to further it only promotes the health of community.

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1	MacNeal commits itself to its patients
2	through committing itself to its employees. I'm
3	proud to work at MacNeal, for MacNeal, and in
4	cooperation with MacNeal.
5	Thank you for giving me the opportunity to
6	speak of my experiences.
7	(Applause.)
8	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Erica Lopez.
9	MS. LOPEZ: Hello. My name is Erica
10	Lopez, and I have been a critical care nurse at
11	MacNeal for the past four years. As a resident
12	of Berwyn I have had the pleasure of caring and
13	serving the people of my own community. Also, as
14	a bilingual nurse, I've facilitated communication
15	between Hispanic patients and other members of
16	the health care team.
17	The support that I received from MacNeal
18	Hospital and the Vanguard Health System made my
19	dream of a nursing career possible. MacNeal
20	Hospital's dedication to their community can be
21	seen through my story. I am a living example of
22	how investing in your employees and communities
23	now can reap far greater benefits in the future.
24	I will always be appreciative of the

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1	support I received from MacNeal, and because of
2	this I do plan on pursuing more knowledge and
3	certifications in the nursing field to
4	incorporate into my clinical practice so that I
5	can better serve the people of Berwyn and the
6	surrounding communities.
7	Thank you.
8	(Applause.)
9	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Vivian Brown.
10	MS. BROWN: Vivian Brown,
11	V-i-v-i-a-n, B-r-o-w-n.
12	Good morning. Thank you for allowing me to
13	testify today in support of the Certificate of
14	Need application.
15	My name is Vivian Brown. I am a resident
16	of Forest Park and an environmental services
17	employee in the emergency room at MacNeal Hospital.
18	I have heard a lot of people talk today
19	about how West Suburban and Westlake employees
20	should be concerned about what it would be like
21	to work for Vanguard Health Systems and how the
22	company will treat its employees poorly. Well,
23	that just isn't the case at MacNeal.
24	I started working at MacNeal 10 years ago

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1	this past January. Before then I worked at
2	Grant Hospital, which later became Lincoln Park.
3	I didn't want to leave Grant Hospital at the
4	time, but the hospital was changing, and though I
5	was close to 20 years, I left.
6	In my time at MacNeal, I can honestly say
7	that I have not looked back once. We have a real
8	work family at MacNeal, and I'm proud to be a
9	part of it.
10	All you have to do is visit the ER where I
11	work to see the type of family the administrators
12	emphasize. Nurses and doctors in the ER put
13	patient care first while administrators go out of
14	their way to interact with all of the other
15	hospital employees regardless of their positions.
16	On top of that, employees are treated well
17	and appreciated. Our benefits are more than
18	generous, and every month we are asked to
19	participate in a customer service meeting with
20	administrators to talk about ways they can
21	improve the hospital and level of quality care we
22	provide to our patients.
23	These aren't the type of meetings where
24	they talk and we listen. Instead, we, the

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1	employees, do the talking while the administrators
2	ask us what we think and listen to our answers.
3	Every holiday season the hospital adopts
4	families in our community who need a little extra
5	help. We all donate food and money while our
6	bosses go out and purchase gifts and food so that
7	families who are hurting are able to celebrate,
8	too.
9	Everybody deserves the opportunity to work
10	at a place like MacNeal. We know that we're an
11	important part of the community, and the
12	community appreciates the work that we do. Not
13	one day goes by that I don't leave the hospital
14	feeling like I really made a difference today.
15	Everyone should be so lucky.
16	(Applause.)
17	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Henderson
18	Yarbrough.
19	MS. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon. My
20	name is Mindy Williams. I'm reading this on
21	behalf of Mayor Henderson Yarbrough.
22	"Please convey to the Illinois Health
23	Facilities and Services Review Board my support
24	for the transfer of ownership of Westlake

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1	Hospital from Resurrection Health Care to
2	Vanguard Health Systems, Inc.
3	"Westlake Hospital is an important
4	institution for our community. For more than
5	85 years the hospital has cared for our residents.
6	Westlake not only provides critical medical
7	service and jobs but also free programs,
8	screenings, and outreach to the uninsured and
9	others in need.
10	"It is essential that Westlake Hospital
11	continues to operate. I support Vanguard Health's
12	commitment to this institution and our community.
13	"Respectfully, Henderson Yarbrough."
14	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Danny Davis.
15	MS. WILLIAMS: My name is Mindy
16	Williams. I'm reading this on behalf of
17	Congressman Danny Davis.
18	"I would like to offer my support for your
19	request seeking a Certificate of Need from the
20	Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review
21	Board to transfer ownership of West Suburban
22	Medical Center and Westlake Hospital from
23	Resurrection Health Care to Vanguard Health
24	Systems, Inc.

"My family and have I have close personal relationship with West Suburban Medical Center.

I have been a neighbor of the facility for a number of years, and the hospital has served my community for almost a century. In addition,

I've had long and positive experiences with

Westlake Hospital.

These hospitals offer a number of community programs and educational classes along with its top quality health care. On top of all these positive attributes, the hospital provides millions of dollars of free care to those with the greatest of need. Vanguard Health will continue these hospitals' dedication to the community.

"It is imperative the communities served by West Suburban Medical Center that the acquisition of this hospital move forward without delay. I'd like to see the Health Facilities and Services Review Board, consistent with its capabilities, expedite the review and approval of the change of ownership applications and, in doing so, facilitate the associated transaction's completion.

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1	"It is vitally important that West Suburban
2	Medical Center continues to serve the community I
3	represent."
4	The following I have letters of support
5	from the following individuals: Cathy Stenberg,
6	executive director of Melrose Park Chamber of
7	Commerce; Bishop Claude Porter, president and CEO
8	of Proviso-Leyden Council for Community Action;
9	Reverend Thomas R. Johnson, pastor of St. Paul
10	Lutheran Church; Silvia Villa, executive director
11	of the Illinois Welcoming Center; a resolution
12	from the Westlake Hospital Medical Executives; a
13	resolution from the Westlake Leadership Team; a
14	letter of support from Marlene Groll; a resolution
15	from the Oak West Primary Physicians Association;
16	letter of support from Commissioner Tony Peraica;
17	letter of support from Commissioner Edwin Reyes;
18	and letter of support from Representative Karen
19	Yarbrough.
20	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Janice Lindquist.
21	(No response.)
22	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Silvia Villa.
23	(No response.)
24	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Representative

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1	Lisa Hernandez.
2	(No response.)
3	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Edward Acevedo.
4	MS. LOPEZ: Good morning. My name is
5	Patricia Lopez, L-o-p-e-z, and I'm here on behalf
6	of State Senator Antonio Munoz and Representative
7	Edward Acevedo. I'd like to read a letter on
8	their behalf.
9	"Please convey our support to the Illinois
10	Facilities and Services Review Board for the
11	Certificate of Need to transfer ownership of West
12	Suburban Hospital and Westlake Hospital from
13	Resurrection Health Care to Vanguard Health
14	Systems, Inc.
15	"Vanguard Health Systems owns two hospitals
16	in the Chicago area, MacNeal, which joined
17	Vanguard Health in 2000, and Louis A. Weiss
18	Memorial Hospital in 2002. These hospitals have
19	long-standing reputations of serving Berwyn and
20	Chicago's north-side communities. Under Vanguard
21	Health's ownership MacNeal and Weiss have
22	improved their reputation of providing high-
23	quality health care services, and both hospitals
24	provide Medicaid and Medicare services on par

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1	with nonprofit hospitals in their respective
2	markets.
3	"It is imperative to the communities served
4	by West Suburban Medical Center and Westlake
5	Hospital that the acquisition of these hospitals
6	move forward without delay. We would like to see
7	the Health Facilities and Services Review Board,
8	consistent with its rules and capabilities,
9	expedite the review and approval of the change of
10	ownership applications and, in doing so,
11	facilitate the associated transaction's
12	completion.
13	"We request that the Illinois Health
14	Facilities and Services Review Board approve the
15	application for a Certificate of Need.
16	"Sincerely, Illinois State Representative
17	Edward Acevedo and Illinois State Senator
18	Antonio Munoz."
19	(Applause.)
20	MR. KOFFEY: Hi. My name is Patrick
21	Koffey, P-a-t-r-i-c-k, K-o-f-f-e-y. I'm reading
22	testimony on behalf of Illinois State
23	Representative Lisa Hernandez. The letter is
24	written to Brian Lemon, chief executive officer

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1	for MacNeal Hospital.
2	"Dear Mr. Lemon: Please convey my support
3	to the Illinois Facilities and Services Review
4	Board for a Certificate of Need to transfer
5	ownership of West Suburban Medical Center and
6	Westlake Hospital from Resurrection Health Care
7	to Vanguard Health Systems, Inc.
8	"Vanguard Health Systems owns two hospitals
9	in the Chicago area, MacNeal Hospital, which
10	joined Vanguard Health in 2000, and Louis A. Weiss
11	Memorial Hospital in 2002. These hospitals have
12	long-standing reputations of serving Berwyn and
13	Chicago's north-side communities. Under
14	Vanguard's ownership, MacNeal and Weiss have
15	improved their reputations of providing high-
16	quality health care services, and both hospitals
17	are on par with not-for-profit hospitals in their
18	respective markets.
19	"It is imperative to the communities served
20	by West Suburban Medical Center and Westlake
21	Hospital that the acquisitions of these hospitals
22	move forward without delay. I would like to see
23	the Health Facilities and Services Review Board,
24	consistent with its rules and capabilities,

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1	expedite the review and approval of the change
2	ownership applications and, in doing so,
3	facilitate the associated transaction's completion.
4	"I request that the Illinois Health
5	Facilities and Services Review Board approve the
6	application for a Certificate of Need.
7	"Sincerely, Elizabeth Hernandez, State
8	Representative, 24th District."
9	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Jeannie Frey.
10	MS. FREY: Good morning. My name is
11	Jeannie Carmedelle Frey, J-e-a-n-n-i-e,
12	C-a-r-m-e-d-e-l-l-e, F-r-e-y. I'm senior vice
13	president of legal affairs for Resurrection
14	Health Care Corporation. I'm also the corporate
15	secretary of Westlake Hospital.
16	On behalf of Westlake Hospital and all of
17	Resurrection Health Care, I would like to express
18	our gratitude to the Illinois Health Facilities
19	and Services Review Board for giving us and the
20	many supporters of this application the opportunity
21	to speak at today's public hearing. We would
22	also like to acknowledge the conscientious work
23	done at this hearing by both the Hearing Officer
24	and the Court Reporter.

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1	Resurrection appreciates that some may have
2	sincere concerns regarding the proposed sale of
3	this hospital. I believe that any such concerns
4	have been well addressed, sometimes quite
5	eloquently, in the testimony of the numerous
6	individuals who have spoken here today in favor
7	of this sale, including community members and
8	community leaders, physicians, employees,
9	government officials, members of the clergy,
10	leaders of other nearby hospitals and health
11	providers, as well as Vanguard Health Systems.
12	Inherent in the testimony of all such
13	speakers is a recognition that this transaction
14	is critically important to the future of the
15	hospital and the community it serves. Their
16	testimony today clearly illustrates the strong,
17	broad-based support for a transition that, while
18	difficult, makes sense for this community and is,
19	in fact, the best way to save this hospital and
20	its services over the long term.
21	It has been a full morning. I will,
22	therefore, reiterate and clarify just a few
23	key points.
24	First of all, all of us at Resurrection

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Health Care are truly heartbroken that this sale has become necessary. As Sister Patricia Ann Koschalke has noted, we come to this juncture only after a process of long consideration and prayer reflecting on the impact of the whole community of all possible alternatives.

Since making Westlake part of the

Resurrection system in 1998, its employees have

become our colleagues and, more importantly, our

friends, while the members of the community

became part our extended family of care. We at

Resurrection can assure the community and the

Board that we have not come to this point lightly.

We knew when Westlake joined Resurrection that it faced real operational challenges.

However, we also knew that the community needed Westlake Hospital, and as an organization we put our heart and soul, as well as the system's financial resources, into helping this hospital serve that community. Although the hospital has lost money for many years, we tried many things and considered many alternatives before concluding that we had done all that we could and that it was time to pass the torch on to another

health care system.

Although many other Catholic and not-for-profit health care systems in the area were asked to consider taking over responsibility for Westlake Hospital, no one was willing to even make an offer, citing their own financial constraints or that the location of this hospital did not fit their strategic plan. We are, therefore, very grateful that Vanguard alone was willing to step up and commit to making this hospital one of its own.

Our sadness at the prospect of Westlake
Hospital no longer being part of the Resurrection
family is tempered by the belief that as part of
the Vanguard Health Systems Westlake will have
the support of a committed health care provider
with a proven track record of meeting community
needs and operating quality hospitals in
Illinois, Arizona, Texas and Massachusetts. They
have a strong commitment to serving Medicaid
patients, thereby assuring continued availability
of hospital services to those most in need. As
Carmen Velasquez of Alivio Medical Center has
said, they not only say the right thing, but they

114 do the right thing. 1 Second, I know that you've heard from representatives of Vanguard Health Systems 3 regarding their philosophy and history of acquiring hospitals and not just keeping them open but growing and developing them and 7 expanding their workforce. As Mr. Woodson from AFSCME has acknowledged, 8 9 this is a challenging time to be a health care In Illinois, unlike other states, we 10 provider. 11 have a governmental body, the Illinois Health 12 Facilities and Services Review Board, that must 13 approve not only any change in control of the 14 hospital such as in this case but any hospital 15 closure or discontinuation of a significant 16 hospital service. 17 Therefore, no matter what commitment a 18 hospital operator does or doesn't make, hospital 19 owners are not asked to maintain their hospitals 20 into the future for any length of time. 21 law provides that no hospital can close or 22 diminish its services without the Board's approval 23 after a comprehensive evaluation of community 24 residents' health care needs. That protection is

115 a strong one and allows the Board to react to 1 future community health needs as those future needs arise and in light of then current 3 realities. Thirdly and lastly, while we know that in pure financial terms -- that is, of simple 7 economic market value as evidenced based on a 8 comprehensive independent market evaluation --9 Westlake Hospital is not considered worth very 10 However, we also well know that in human 11 terms this hospital is incredibly valuable. You have heard testimony from a large 12 13 number of individuals who have given witness to 14 that value from a wide variety of perspectives. 15 We at Resurrection are proud to have contributed 16 to that value over the past 12 years. We know 17 that we have put into the hospital far more money 18 than it can ever afford to repay, but we will 19 leave with the compensation of having helped 20 Westlake become better than it was before and 21 having therefore contributed to the health and 22 security of hospitals' patients, employees, and 23 community members. 24 Scripture teaches us that for every time

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1	there is a season. With a large measure of
2	reluctance and sadness, Resurrection recognizes
3	it's time to turn over the future of Westlake
4	Hospital to another qualified organization.
5	However, we do so with the belief that it is in
6	the very best interests of Westlake Hospital, its
7	employees and staff, as well as the many people
8	who are served by and support this important
9	community resource. We, therefore, respectfully
10	ask the Illinois Health Facilities and Service
11	Review Board to act in a timely manner to approve
12	this application.
13	Thank you.
14	(Applause.)
15	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Is there
16	anyone who not given testimony that wishes to
17	give testimony?
18	(No response.)
19	HEARING OFFICER HALL: I would like
20	to thank the Melrose Park Village Hall for the
21	use of their facility today.
22	I would remind everyone to submit your
23	written comments to me so that we have this
24	information for the record.

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1	This project is scheduled for consideration
2	by the Illinois Facilities and Services Review
3	Board at its June 8th through 9th, 2010, meeting.
4	A location for this meeting is still being
5	determined.
6	The public has until May 19th to submit
7	written comments. These comments can be sent to
8	my attention at the Illinois Department of Public
9	Health at 525 West Jefferson Street, Second Floor,
10	Springfield, Illinois 62761-001. If you prefer,
11	you may fax your comments. Our a fax machine
12	our fax number is (217) 785-4111.
13	Are there any questions?
14	(No response.)
15	HEARING OFFICER HALL: Seeing that
16	there are no additional questions or comments, I
17	deem this public hearing adjourned.
18	Thank you.
19	(Which were all the proceedings
20	had in the above-entitled matter
21	at the hour of 12:05 p.m.)
22	
23	
24	

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