

E-004-19

April 3, 2019

IL Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

**RECEIVED**

APR 8 2019

**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

To whom it may concern,

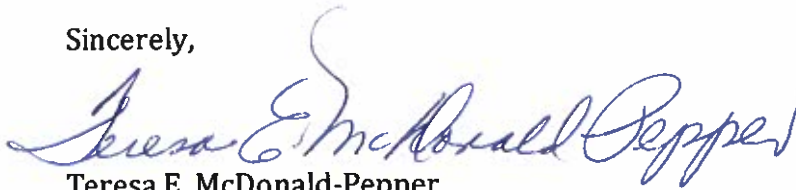
I am writing today to voice my **strong opposition to the closure of Westlake Hospital.**

Earlier this year, Pipeline Health finalized the purchase of a three hospital system that included Westlake Hospital. The **prospect of closing any hospital in the system was not approached during the negotiations of the sale.** Pipeline even pledged to turn around the financially struggling facilities, yet **Pipeline has blindsided our community by making the decision to begin the process to close Westlake Hospital.**

Closing Westlake hospital will take away access to health care from a community largely of color, just to boost corporate profits of Pipeline Health.

**The closure of Westlake has resulted in a grassroots effort to save the hospital. I write to join the strong coalition of community residents, local elected officials and medical professionals at Westlake to encourage the Health Facilities and Services Review Board to block the closure of Westlake hospital.**

Sincerely,



Teresa E. McDonald-Pepper  
337 Geneva Ave  
Bellwood, IL 60104-1305

E-004-19

April 4, 2019

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62761

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APR 8 2019

**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in concern of what is presently happening at Westlake Hospital. Pipeline has a date of April 30, 2019 to potentially receive permission to close the hospital. They are presently closing services and reducing bed numbers at the hospital that should not occur until they receive permission to close. They are systematically and prematurely closing from the inside out. The nurses are fearful and intimidated for the day in and day out activities of Pipeline through the CNO, Roslyn. The following are the actions in just the past week. These actions were told to me by nurses and staff with conversations with the CNO. They are too afraid to come forward because of retaliation.

- CNO went to the OB department and told the nurses to find new jobs as their department would close in 3 weeks.
- CNO instructed the hospital to go on bypass 4/3 and stay on bypass until 4/8. It was explained that this would be how she would decrease the census and admissions.
- CNO stated then she could cut a 12 bed ICU to 4 beds, she would then close one of the medical surgical floors and she could then move those nurses to West Suburban.
- When the CNO was told that this was an EMTALA violation, she stated "no staff, no patients and then no EMTALA violation".
- She wants patients to be stabilized in the emergency room and transferred to other facilities even if no higher level of care is needed. Again, this is an EMTALA violation.
- CNO is canceling agency nurses and can not use per diem agency to supplement staff. Westlake hospital has always depended on a few agency nurses to supplement staff.
- CNO is also demanding 2 nurses go to West Suburban Medical Center to facilitate her moving of the bariatric services to West Suburban.
- CNO stated that surgical bariatric equipment would be moved to West Suburban on 4/11 and then bariatric surgeries would no longer be at Westlake. We are the Center of Excellence for Bariatric Services.
- In a meeting on 4/1, it was said that Westlake would close before 4/30 because of the above activity there would not be safe staffing. They are pulling nurses and cancelling nurses to achieve this unsafe staffing number.

- CNO has consistently gone to the units in the hospital and told nurses and staff to find new jobs because the hospital will close.
- Also, patients are being contacted that their medical records are being transferred to West Suburban.

These actions have just been in the past week. This has been a regime by the CNO since the beginning when people were protesting the closing. I thought the proper process was to wait until they received permission from the Board before they could start the process of closing. This is outrageous. Patient safety and lives are being put at risk by their actions. I am asking the Board to please stop them from this behavior and wait until the Board has given them their decision.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shellye Pechulis RN". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Shellye Pechulis RN