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APR 29 2019

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

**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,

*Irene Bakos, MD* 4-24-19

IRENE BAKOS, MD  
1111 SUPERIOR ST. STE 401  
MELROSE PARK, ILL. 60160  
708 450 0500