

Linda A. Adams

Review Board Testimony

July 24th, 2019

I am a Nurse. I belong to the most trusted profession, according to a 2019 Gallup poll. I hope that you will trust what I have to say today and carry it in your hearts and in your minds. I stand before you as a former Blue Island resident of 55 years and as an employee of St. Francis/MetroSouth Hospital since 1982. I have just celebrated my 40th anniversary as a Registered Nurse in Illinois. I have been practicing nursing for a continuous 40 years. My husband, three children, two grandchildren and I were all born at St. Francis/MetroSouth Hospital. I have a long personal history with this facility. My daughter was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes in 1981. We were frequent flyers to the Emergency Room. Home blood testing was not yet created. We carried our sometime seizing, due to hypoglycemia, and once comatose child through the doors of St. Francis for treatment. Because of the close proximity of the hospital to our home our child was spared negative patient outcomes. I believe that a hospital even ten minutes further distance, would have ended in catastrophic results for my daughter. My Parent's both coded in this facility. My Mom with respiratory arrest and my Dad with cardiac arrest. Both survived. We had my Father with us for ten more precious years and my Mother is ninety years old and still thriving today. I know the clinical skills of the staff that cared for them and combined with the comfort of being close to their Blue Island home led to their respective recoveries.

Working in my own Community has led to the acquaintance of many, local residents. My phone has rung at 2am. A nervous mother on the other end of the line, begging me to listen to her child's coarse breath sounds. A phone call that saved her daughter's life. Another time, I held a local baby in my arms and observed the infant having apneic episodes, which led to the infant's diagnosis of, "apnea of prematurity." Resulting in a treatment plan for her baby. Once, I picked up the phone call to hear a scared wife of a hospice patient. She was questioning if this was the end. It was, and her husband died that night in the same place that he was diagnosed. MetroSouth. IT gave them comfort to have the very same nurses treat him. I share these stories with you to prove that MetroSouth nurse are special. We engage with the Community. We teach, we cry with families, we fight for our patients and for proper staff ratios. We work in tandem with Physicians. We are the eyes and the ears of doctors, when they can't be in house. We observe the subtle physical changes that can lead to prompt treatment and an adjustment in a patient's plan of care. We become part of the Community.

I personally started my career as a Post Partum/Labor and Delivery RN and transitioned to Special Care Nursery. I am a preceptor, RNC-NIC, NRP instructor for Physicians, Nurses and Respiratory . Therapists at Metro South. My favorite teaching arena is with my patients. Teaching new parents how to cope with and understand a new diagnosis makes me feel accomplished. Doctors explain things to patients, but when the dust settles, it is we nurses that sit down, hold hands and say, "let's talk, how do you feel, do you understand what's going on? You see, we nurses at MetroSouth have been in Blue Island for a very long time and we are very good at what we do. If the doors close here, then I can't use these hands to start IV access on an infant with massive blood loss. Giving him life saving fluids into his limp lifeless body. I won't be able to use my hands to pump life saving air into an apneic infant and give him the chance at becoming an A student. I will no longer be able to connect with the local opioid

addicted Mom and help her to get the treatment that she needs. If you agree with Quorum and close our doors then you will allow this Corporation to silence my hands and my voice. I will no longer be able to tell another resident in this area, that I am here for them. Sure, I can go elsewhere. I can practice from afar. But, I know that the residents of my hometown, their faces and voices that I know so well, WILL BE UNDERSERVED! YOU will not just be shutting the doors of this hospital, you will be shutting out and entire community.

Thank you,

Respectfully submitted,

Linda A. Adams

Addendum: The nurses and staff of MetroSouth Hospital have collected over 2200 signatures on to save the hospital on Gopetition.com. We will be submitting the petition to Governor Pritzker in the coming week. We ask that you consider this large group of supporters in your decision making process.