

Public Health Committee Senate

October 19th 2020 9:30

Representing: Myself, Dr. Rajitha Reddy

University of Illinois Emergency Medicine Resident

As you are already aware Mercy Hospital owned by Trinity Health is planning to close.

This is a direct threat to access to care for some of the most vulnerable populations of Cook County.

And the timing of this could not be any worse.

Research has shown that our black, latinx and other minority communities have been the most affected by this pandemic.

Mercy hospital largely services these communities and has a catchment area of $\frac{1}{3}$ of the population of Chicago.

It provides time sensitive vital care like cardiac and stroke care and is one of the busiest labor and delivery centers.

From what I have gathered, the state had planned to financially assist in a merger for four southside hospitals, but failed to pass the bill earlier this year.

The main driving factors that created this initiative are not only still present but now are even more pressing with the pandemic.

Our current model of health care is expensive.

Fortunately having healthy constituents is a great way to save tax dollars.

It is also the responsibility of the state to facilitate and support infrastructure of a basic net of healthcare to all constituents.

It makes no sense in a time of a health crisis to allow for a safety net hospital to go close.

Especially a hospital that has such historical value and has been there for Chicago residents when times were tough.

I understand that our country and state are going through unprecedented times and that we are in a financial crisis.

I implore you to revisit this bill and make the hard decisions that need to be made to save Mercy Hospital.