

From: [Ryan Kilian](#)
To: [DPH.HFSRB.PublicHearings](#)
Subject: [External] Statement in Opposition of Mercy Closing
Date: Monday, November 2, 2020 3:07:00 PM

To whom it may concern,

One of the many reasons I chose to attend University of Illinois-Chicago Emergency Medicine Residency was the opportunity to serve patients at Mercy Hospital. The decision to close Mercy Hospital coming in the midst of a pandemic and a social movement such as Black Lives Matter further highlights the inequities present in Chicago. Mercy Hospital serves mainly low-income, under-represented communities that already face severe shortage of healthcare resources. What do you think will happen now?

I guarantee you the stakeholders that Mercy Hospital serves had no or minimal voice in these decisions. While I do not personally know the members who ultimately made this decision, I can assure you they cannot understand the consequences of leaving a population already facing near insurmountable adversities with even more difficult access to healthcare. Health is the basis for which we are able to do everything. If you are not healthy, you can't go to school or teach or work or play or, perhaps most importantly, vote.

In my view, inclusion and diversity seem to be buzz words that are used when convenient for those in power especially within the City of Chicago government. Please look yourself in the mirror, and ask yourself if you uphold these and similar values even when it makes life more difficult for you. There are always solutions, but often it requires a problem to be a priority. **Is health equity a priority to you or the City of Chicago?** The clear answer is currently no by the decision to close Mercy Hospital without a plan to replace the lost healthcare within the area. I urge you to reconsider this decision or reinvest in a new healthcare infrastructure that will serve this population. As resident physicians, we see the downstream consequences to low healthcare resources. These populations have been forgotten or purposefully pushed aside by the City of Chicago and decisions like this one. However, UIC Emergency Medicine program and residents will not forget those patients we see every single day as we will continue to advocate for health equity within the City of Chicago.

Thank you for listening,

Ryan Kilian MD, MPH
UIC Emergency Medicine, Class of 2023