

**From:** [Emily Walton](#)  
**To:** [DPH.HFSRB.PublicHearings](#)  
**Subject:** [External] statement to oppose the closing of Mercy Hospital  
**Date:** Monday, November 2, 2020 3:46:44 PM

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To whom it may concern:

I am a senior resident physician in emergency medicine at Mercy Hospital and I strongly oppose the proposed closure of Mercy Hospital. As the oldest hospital in Chicago, for many years it has provided--and continues to provide--important services to the community it serves. It is the only heart attack and stroke center in the area, both of which are extremely time-sensitive medical problems. Patients experiencing chest pain or stroke symptoms quite simply need to be at one of these centers in as little time as possible, and this closure will cost lives as those patients seek care at overwhelmed hospitals farther from their homes.

Just last week I cared for a very young woman whose blood pressure was dangerously low, which we ultimately determined to be from bleeding in her abdomen. It is no exaggeration to say that this woman would have been critically ill on her arrival at a farther hospital and likely would have died in the ambulance had she needed to travel a longer distance. This is only one of innumerable examples of lives saved at Mercy Hospital, and sadly many lives will be lost if it closes.

Given these crucial services that Mercy provides, and particularly in the midst of a pandemic that disproportionately affects the patient population that it serves, this closure is unconscionable. I urge you to work toward a solution to keep Mercy open.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Emily Walton

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