**From:** pparkslee@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Patricia ParksLee
**To:** DPH.HFSRB.PublicHearings
**Subject:** [External] Save Mercy Hospital!
**Date:** Tuesday, November 17, 2020 8:14:23 PM

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Dear Illinois Health Facilities Board,

Trinity Healthcare, a health system that owns Mercy Hospital and has close to $10 billion in assets, is choosing to close a crucial community hospital when it is most needed.

COVID-19 has exacerbated the devastating impacts of the pre-existing healthcare deserts in low-income black and brown neighborhoods, making it clear that Southside residents need more healthcare facilities and services, and not closures and cuts. The closure of Mercy will put the Southside at a deficit of ICU beds and increase time needed to travel to the closest Emergency Room.

The essential workers at Mercy Hospital compose a largely black and brown workforce, and have been making major sacrifices both before and during the current pandemic in order to provide life-saving care to the majority black and brown low-income communities the hospital serves. Both workers and the patients they care for have desperately needed support during this critical time—including better staffing ratios, hazard pay, sufficient PPE and more supplies.

If you believe Black Lives Matter, please use your authority to stop the closure of Mercy Hospital.

Sincerely,
Patricia ParksLee
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