From: bljkary@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Lou Ann Ary
To: DPH.HFSRB.PublicHearings
Subject: [External] Save Mercy Hospital!
Date: Monday, November 23, 2020 2:19:52 PM

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.

I have worked on the Southside as a Registered Nurse since 1981. I have witnessed the decline of healthcare to this community, first by the closing of Michael Reese where I was an RN from 1981-2003. I am now witnessing the same decline in healthcare at Mercy Hospital due to lack of public funding for the most medically complex and poor patients of color. If Mercy is allowed to close, there will be s healthcare crisis on the Southside as the current facilities will not be able to meet the needs of all the patients. Healthcare should not be dispensed by color or income. I employee you as the governor of this state to step in and stop this travesty.

Sincerely,
Lou Ann Ary
716 S Madison St Hinsdale, IL 60521-4361
bljkary@sbcglobal.net