

From: madisonhoenle@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Madison Hoenle](#)
To: [DPH.HFSRB.PublicHearings](#)
Subject: [External] Save Mercy Hospital!
Date: Monday, November 30, 2020 8:40:20 PM

Dear Illinois Health Facilities Board,

I have a friend who works for an ambulance company on the South Side of Chicago, and I see the health disparities in the stories she shares. These problems will only be further exacerbated by closing a hospital that has great impacts on the community. Proximity in health care matters. Help build up communities by allowing adequate health care to exist there. As a physician in training, I am taught that time matters. We have 15 minutes with patients often and yet patients have to travel hours to us. Invest in the hospital and that community and do not allow Mercy Hospital to be shut down.

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,
Madison Hoenle
659 Monterey Dr Crystal Lake, IL 60014-8437
madisonhoenle@att.net