

From: [Ryan Kilian](#)
To: [DPH.HFSRB.PublicHearings](#)
Subject: [External] Statement to Opposition of Proposed Mercy Hospital Closure
Date: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 8:26:29 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 and to create an ambiguous "Mercy Care Center" was abrupt and short-sighted. This decision, coming in the midst of a pandemic no less, just further highlights the inequities present in Chicago. Mercy Hospital serves mainly low-income, under-represented communities that already face a 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. A "care center" is NOT a replacement for Mercy Hospital. 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 values even when it makes your life more difficult or uncomfortable. **Is health equity a priority to you or the City of Chicago?** Closure of Mercy Hospital with the pitiful replacement plan of a care center tells us all we need to know. Trinity does not have the best interest of the population at heart. I urge you to reconsider this decision or reinvest in a new healthcare infrastructure that will serve this population. As 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 the patients that we see every single day as we will continue to advocate for health equity.

Thank you for listening,

Ryan Kilian MD, MPH
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