



The Cook County Physicians Association (CCPA) is the Local Society of the National Medical Association (NMA) and represents African American physicians and the patients we serve throughout the Metropolitan Chicago area and collar counties. Founded in 1895, before African American physicians could join the American Medical Association, NMA has served to advance the art and science of medicine for people of African descent through education, advocacy, and health policy and to promote health and wellness, eliminate health disparities, and sustain physician viability. We serve to enforce this mission in our service area and write this letter to express our concern and opposition to the planned selling of Mercy Hospital at 2525 S. Michigan Avenue in Chicago, IL 60616 to Insight LLC.

We have been present at community conversations with the group and have many concerns regarding the true intent of the organization. There is a nearly 10-year life expectancy gap between Chicagoans living in Mercy's service area and Chicago overall. Black women in Illinois are six times more likely to die of pregnancy related conditions than White women. Mercy is the second largest provider of maternity care on the South Side. The recent pandemic, social unrest and compounding economic challenges have caused a mental health crisis in already vulnerable communities of Chicago.

Insight LLC manages and owns a neurological and surgical center in Warren and Flint MI. While we appreciate the services they provide, there is a disconnect in the needs of the community. Mercy hospital as an acute care facility had more than 50,000 patient visits and 12,000 inpatient admissions per year. The necessity of the services provided include Obstetrics/Gynecology, Behavioral Health, Intensive Care General Surgery and Emergency Services. The Insight group has indicated that they will bring neurological surgery and pain management to a community that is currently suffering from chronic diseases such as poorly controlled hypertension and diabetes.

It is our position that a preventative care focused facility is more needed. It is not evident that Insight LLC is committed to the health and wellness of the community. It is also our position that community voices, including Black constituents and physicians deserve to be included and considered in any redevelopment or planning moving forward. We are aware of a group of other groups interested in assisting with the acquisition. We request that the board allow for delay in closure of Mercy Hospital by Trinity Health. We also request the board to consider additional cost effective solutions that are community focused.

Best Regards,

Cook County Physician Association

Governmental and Legislative Affairs Committee