

From: [Avery, Courtney](#)
To: [DPH.HFSRB.PublicHearings](#)
Subject: FW: [External] Mercy Hospital Oppose transfer of ownership
Date: Friday, March 19, 2021 2:37:46 PM

From: Courtney Hickey <courtneyjhickey@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 19, 2021 2:33 PM
To: Avery, Courtney <Courtney.Avery@Illinois.gov>
Subject: [External] Mercy Hospital Oppose transfer of ownership

To whom this may concern regarding Mercy Hospital

My name is Courtney Hickey, I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and I worked at Mercy at their Emergency Department and Intensive Care. Throughout my time at Mercy, I very quickly learned, Mercy is not only a hospital where someone comes for treatment, it is a place where people come for care. I have firsthand have experienced too many families go through hardships and loss. If Mercy does not continue to operate as a fully functioning Emergency Room, especially with the Stroke unit, there will be many more families suffering hardship. These hardships will come from patients needing to travel further for appropriate medical care and the fact that many hospitals would be overloaded with patients and unable to deal with the capacity that Mercy currently holds, causing these family to no longer receive the intensive care they deserve. Working through the pandemic I can tell you firsthand what occurs when the hospitals are overloaded with patients and unable to care for each individual on a personal level. If Mercy were to close or no longer be a fully operation Emergency Room, patients in the Bronzeville area will not receive the same compassionate and well-rounded care. Mercy hospital is one of the only hospitals on the Southside of Chicago who's labor and delivery department is still fully operating and due to this, Mercy Hospital already receives expecting mothers from other Southside hospitals. It is important for Mercy to continue being a teaching hospital, as Mercy hospital has taught medical students and residents how to work with an underserved population, many who show mistrust in the medical system and often times is our patients first time receiving treatment for long standing ailments. Residents at Mercy have the ability to experience firsthand how to not only treat these individuals but change their lives. It is pertinent that Mercy continues to be a fully operating teaching hospital for this continued education.

At this time, I ask the Review Board to either delay its decision on the exemption application, or deny the application pending future consideration. I support the Chicago Health Equity Coalition's position that all potential buyers must have the opportunity to submit a proposal, and for all proposals to be considered in a fair and transparent. I see the importance for Mercy:

- To be preserved as a full-service public safety-net hospital with a comprehensive Emergency Department, OBGYN, including care for high-risk pregnancies, behavioral health and a primary stroke and cardiac center.

- I support the sale of Mercy to any responsible and invested entity committed to transparency to the community, significant community representation on the board, and preservation of the full extent of Mercy Hospital's mission of health care and education.

- Prior to a sale, I request a clear public plan to restore Mercy to a fully operational teaching hospital.

As a previous employee and current LCSW, I advocate on behalf of the patients of Mercy

Hospital and the Bronzeville are requesting that you delay the decision or deny the application pending future consideration. Insight will not continue to support the values of Mercy Hospital or serve the population for the needs they have, Bronzeville does not need a medical center, they need an emergency room, ICU, Stroke unit, labor and delivery unit, but most importantly a community where they know they are safe and a hospital where they know their medical team will take care of them,

Thank you,
Courtney Hickey, LCSW

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