



Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, Second floor
Springfield, Ill. 62761
May 29, 2022

Dear Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board,

I would like to thank the IHFSRB for the attention they devoted to the review of the change of ownership of West Suburban and Weiss Memorial Hospitals. As you know there were a number of community members and organizations as well as local and national organizations that expressed their concerns with this sale during the review process. In the staff report that was submitted for consideration, the authors made reference to the fact that there remains, on the part of the community residents, and the organizations that submitted comment quite a bit of concern about the lack of concrete information on the professional and financial back grounds of the proposed buyers, as well as their commitment and the ability to ensure the continued services that our communities so desperately need.

I take this opportunity to echo and reiterate these concerns. Despite numerous requests from the public for evidence of Manoj Prasad's educational qualifications, the responses that were received were vague. Perhaps he is a medical doctor and a Ph.D. as he claimed throughout the process but the reluctance to provide documentation of his qualifications only heightened the concerns the community already had about this sale. A number of community members also expressed concern about where the twelve million dollars that the prospective buyers say would be committed to improved services at the two hospitals would come from given that the amount appears as a credit from Pipeline on the total purchase price. These concerns together with the worry about the sale now in process of Weiss Hospital's expansion land which is currently used as the surface parking lot and was used for services and operations during the Covid-19 surges, has left many of us doubtful about the prospective owners' commitment and ability to provide quality services to our communities in the coming years.

Finally, the application only covers commitments for the next two years, which does not provide much security to our communities. If this application were to be accepted, I would strongly urge the Board to recommend that the advisory board include community members and that positions for the community be established on the governing board.

Sincerely,

Marc Kaplan – for Northside Action for Justice

