

E-004-19

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RECEIVED

APR 10 2019

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

To whom it may concern,

I am writing today to voice my **strong opposition to the closure of Westlake Hospital.**

Earlier this year, Pipeline Health finalized the purchase of a three hospital system that included Westlake Hospital. The **prospect of closing any hospital in the system was not approached during the negotiations of the sale.** Pipeline even pledged to turn around the financially struggling facilities, yet Pipeline has blindsided our community by making the decision to **begin the process to close Westlake Hospital.**

Closing Westlake hospital will take away access to health care to many communities just to boost the corporate profits of Pipeline Health.

The closure of Westlake has resulted in a grassroots effort to save the hospital. I write to join the strong coalition of community residents, local elected officials and medical professionals at Westlake to encourage the Health Facilities and Services Review Board to **block the closure of Westlake hospital.**

Sincerely,

Michelle Ramirez
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Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Andracke".

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Sincerely,


Sunny Arellano

Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

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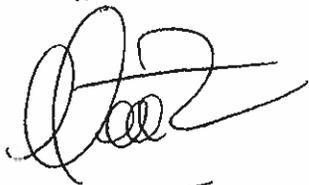
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Manuel Temponi', written in a cursive style.

Manuel Temponi

Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

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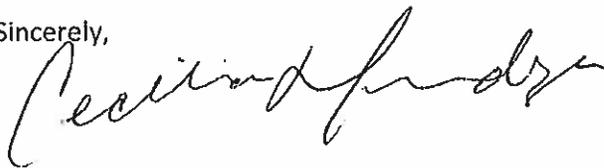
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Cecilia Mendoza'.

Cecilia Mendoza

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525 W Jefferson, 2nd Floor
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Sincerely,

Esteban Hernandez

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be a stylized name with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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525 W Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

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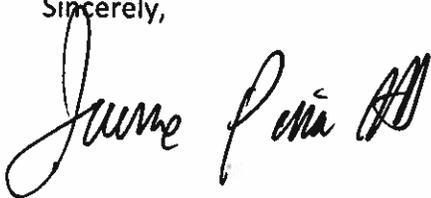
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jaime Peña" followed by a stylized set of initials.

Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

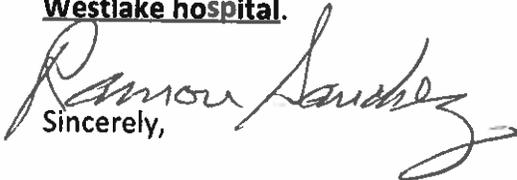
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Sincerely,

Jesus Enriquez

Health Facilities and Services Review Board
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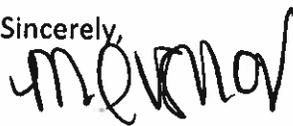
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Sincerely,

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Caroline Murillo

Sincerely,

Print Name: Caroline Murillo

City: Melrose Park, IL

E-004-19

Ann M. O'Connor
1000 Circle Ave, Forest Park, IL 60130

April 7, 2019

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St.
Springfield, IL 62761

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APR 10 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before you decide on whether or not to keep West Lake Hospital open, please consider my letter. I have lived with fibromyalgia most of my life, more recently with arthritis in my knees. I have not taken prescription medication of any kind for 20 years. There were too many negative reactions. I rarely take OTC pain medicine. My main pain relief is diet and physical therapy.

Last fall I was prescribed water therapy at West Lake hospital. It was fantastic. I have made steady improvements in muscle function. It has given me more energy and some reduction in pain. Best result of all, it has given me hope. Hope that I will be mobile and self-reliant for years to come.

My life had become very limited. Constant pain led to immobility. When it hurts to move one tends to stay sitting or lying down. That led to muscle loss, more pain, and less moving. That limited my life to going out only if necessary. I was quite depressed before water therapy.

The water therapy at West Lake Hospital is unique. Other hospitals may have a pool, but not a therapy pool. The water is much warmer with a higher salt content. Not sure of the medical reasons why that feels so good, but it does. It makes it possible to move, stretch, and exercise muscles. The lighting and music is adjustable. Dimmed lighting and individualized music or quiet is very soothing. When one is in constant pain it is very hard to find anything soothing.

While the pool itself has helped a great deal, the physical therapists are indispensable. They explain what exercises and stretches will help the most. They also give encouragement. I start every session jumping, something I haven't been able to do in 30 years. It gives me a joyful feeling.

When deciding the future of West Lake Hospital, please consider all the people who currently use the therapy pool and all the future people who might find a higher quality of live if the therapy pool is available to them. Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

Ann M. O'Connor