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APR 18 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,

Darryl E. Blackmon