Good afternoon and thank you to the members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board for this hearing and giving us the opportunity to speak about the importance of Metro South Medical Center. My name is Kristin Smith. I'm a Speech Language Pathologist and an employee of MetroSouth. In my 13 year career as Speech Pathologist, I have worked at various levels of healthcare-subacute rehabilitation, acute rehabilitation, skilled nursing, home health, long term acute care, and various acute care hospitals. I have never before, across my experience, found another place like MetroSouth. I have been a proud member of the Rehabilitation Services team at Metro South for two and half years. With the constant changes in healthcare, it is refreshing to tell you that at two and a half years, I am the lowest team member in terms of seniority and we have many Rehab members that have spent the majority of their careers in that building across the street, dedicating themselves to the service of our patient population. Our most senior members having devoted 30, 33, 34, and 39 years to this hospital and its patients. We love working at Metro South Medical Center. We are a family and treat our patients as family. It is my honor to speak on their behalf today.

I speak about MetroSouth with great pride. I'm proud of the facilities we have, the services we offer, and the quality of care that is given to our patients. I, and I'm sure all of us, understand that the hospital is a business. However, I can guarantee that none of us that are direct patient care providers come into work every day thinking about it in the vein. We are treating people. People that live in this and the close surrounding communities. People that trust us with their lives and the lives of their loved ones. We focus on providing ethical, safe, quality care to people irregardless of their payor source; if they are underinsured or uninsured. We treat them as the human beings they are and give them the care they deserving of. As an American Heart Association/American Stroke Association Gold Plus award winning hospital and a Primary Stroke Center, we have received and treated hundreds of stroke patients every year, with that number quickly growing each year. From 2017 to 2018, the number of stroke patients increased nearly 15% to 297 patients. As a

Speech Pathologist and a Rehabilitation team member, evaluating, diagnosing, treating, and making recommendations for almost 300 people is a huge task. A task that we are humbled by and proud to do. In my time at MetroSouth, I have read the ER notes and history and physicals for many people and have noted that a surprising amount of these patients have driven themselves or asked a family member to drive them to our Emergency Department. When I have questioned as to why they arrived by personal vehicle, the answer always really strikes me. "Because I knew I wanted to, knew I needed to come here. I wouldn't take the risk of being taken to the hospital that's closest to me." During life saving, critical situations of acute stroke, heart attack, gunshot, or other severe injuries, having people travel 12-14 extra minutes to the next nearest ER is not only unsafe, it is unacceptable.

For all of our patients, our goals are the same. The rehabilitation team assesses, diagnoses, and makes recommendations for ongoing rehab and discharge destination for every patient we are ordered on. The extent of our practice reaches far beyond where most people expect. As a preferred surgical site for specialized orthopedic procedures such as Super Paths, our dedicated Physical and Occupational therapists at MetroSouth accommodate these patients by evaluating and mobilizing them 3 hours post surgery to improve their functional outcomes. Patients in our same day surgery unit are evaluated for needed assistive devices and environmental barrier training prior to being discharged home. Women in our obstetrics and Mother Baby unit are seen post epidural/post birth for gait, balance, and safety assessments. Our Speech Language Pathologists are able to evaluate and make recommendations for oral diets for patients that have just suffered an acute stroke. We assess and trial patients with speaking valves so that they may communicate with their family members and their care staff after having a tracheotomy. Newborn hearing screenings are performed both in our mother baby unit and on an outpatient basis. Our scope is vast, and as clinicians we are proud of the service we provide to people of this generally underserved population. This hospital is a tremendous resource and the cornerstone of this community. We have developed long term,

ongoing relationships with the people we serve that have come here for multiple admissions, have birthed their children here, have come here for excellent local outpatient services, and have brought their family members here because they trust us and they are reassured by the continuity of care we are able to provide. Since March of this year we have completed 500 pre-employment physical ability assessments for residents of the surrounding areas. Last year, across inpatient and outpatient rehab services we have provided over 200 audiological procedures, 4500 Occupational Therapy procedures, 3200 Speech Language Pathology procedures, and an astounding 31,000 Physical Therapy procedures. The loss of MetroSouth would be devastating to the almost 1000 employees, to our patients who rely on us, and the entire area of Blue Island. Because, while the hospital may be a business, OUR business is saving people, giving them the best outcomes, providing them with timely and high quality, effective care. Without MetroSouth, we are doing the wonderful human beings of this community a disservice.

Thank you for your time

Alsip a great place to live & work

Alsip is home to 20,000 residents at night, but that number doubles during the day, because of the diverse economic base and home to
over 850 businesses
3-Elementry Schools
2-Junior High Schools
4-locations representing people with special needs or disabilities
2-apprenticeship trade schools
3-Hotels
and an extremely busy Tri-State Tollway where we're deployed often

AFD is proud to have an ISO rating of 2 out of a 1 to 9 scale (1 being the best)

AFD is trained for specialty service such as Hazardous Materials, Technical Rescue, Fire Investigation and staffs a minimum of 8 Firefighters/Paramedics on duty at all times between 2 fire stations

AFD equipment includes 3-ALS (Advanced Life Support) ambulances, 3-fire trucks (2-equiped with ALS) The Village employs 33 Ft Fire Department personnel who responded to over 3500 calls for service last year:

So certainly, AFD has the personnel & equipment to respond too and best protect everyone's greatest asset, their families, employees, homes & businesses, yet we need resources and MetroSouth Hospital needs to be included as such. Because of the Villages' locale, we can utilize both Christ & Palos Hospitals, but the eastern portion of the Village and mutual aide to the surrounding communities like Blue Island, Calumet Park, Crestwood & Robbins dictate the need for MetroSouth Hospital.

Always consider, Mutual Aide creates a domino effect, as we're assisting our Village and others, everyone has to cover each other's back and the alternative outcome if losing MetroSouth Hospital, is travel to another Hospital while leaving our community temporarily without our protection.

Alsip's a very active community and relies on all resources to assist the sick or injured.

I wish to thank Rep. Bob Rita and the committee for inviting me to speak on behalf of the Village of Alsip and ask that the committee include my testimony for the record and present as needed in support of MetroSouth Hospital and the affected communities.

Village of Alsip Mayor John D Ryan

BLUE island est. 1835

Memo

July 24, 2019

To: Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

From: Michael Marzal, Director of Finance and Administration MM

Subject: **MetroSouth Closure**

On July 11, 2019 a crowd of more than 200 gathered for the City of Blue Island's MetroSouth Summit at the City Hall East Annex. This Summit was hosted by Blue Island Mayor Domingo Vargas and staff, the Summit featured facilitators from the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association and the City of Blue Island, who helped guide breakout discussions with First Responders, Medical Professionals, and Community Leaders about the impacts of the hospital's announced intent to close, the resources needed to properly address those impacts, and the opportunities that exist to mitigate the impacts and provide ongoing healthcare for the community.

Community Leaders in attendance included concerned residents and business owners of Blue Island and neighboring communities, State Representatives Bob Rita and Will Davis, a representative for U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth, Mayor Tyrone Ward of Robbins, Mayor Riley Rogers of Dolton, Thornton Village President Robert Kolosh, several Blue Island aldermen, representatives from local commissioner's offices, and Pace, as well as representatives from offices of locally elected federal officials. The Summit was also attended by physicians, medical directors, and nurses currently employed at MetroSouth and other area hospitals, as well as First Responders from across the Southland.

The goal of this Summit was to identify the impacts the announce closure would have on the region, what resources would be needed to minimize the closure, and future steps to address this situation. The findings of the Summit was that the closure of MetroSouth would have a devastating impact on the under resourced communities in the southland. Here is a summary of the devastating impacts.

The First Responder:

- Would need substantial funding to upgrade equipment and training for personnel to address the longer drive times to get patients to medical facilities.
- Additional staffing and funding for staffing to address the longer turnaround times.
- Significant funding for equipment and maintenance
- Assistance with redeveloping mutual aid programs

- Funding for road improvements to address the number of railroad crossings in the southland region to reduce travel times

The Medical Community:

- Over 50,000 ER visits per year to MetroSouth and next closest hospital only has a net three bed.
- Delay time to been seen by medical professional
- Loss of specialty care such as stroke and heart care
- Loss of delivery services for expecting mothers
- Loss of senior care for the elderly
- Loss of over 800 jobs at the facility and associated jobs in the medical field

The Community Leaders:

- How after 9/11 MetroSouth has been identified as a location to service the injured in case of a catastrophic attack on our country
- The economic impact to the region of the closure
- Loss of elder care programs
- Distance and travel time including railroad crossings
- Loss of specialty clinics including stoke
- Loss of care for retirees
- How the Southside is already an underserved medical community
- How the older, sicker, and poorer are most impacted by the closure
- Loss of mental care services
- Pace serves 23 communities with routes specifically to this hospital

Time is Tissue and loss of tissue is loss of life. This closure would drastically impact the under resourced communities in the southland region and the quality of life for its residents. The City of Blue Island and surrounding region cannot sustain a loss of this magnitude.

From Christine Illiopoulos, owner
of DeMars Restaurant, Blue Island IL
60406

Metro South is a fundamental part of our community, so it is no surprise that ~~the~~ we are very concerned that the hospital is closing.

Our family owned Restaurant DeMars has been in existance since 1950, and employs about 15 people some as long as 30 years.

The hospital brings in at least 60% of our revenue from the employees and guest visitors every day, ordering breakfast lunch & dinner.

The closing of the hospital will not only affect DeMars but other surrounding business's as well.

Not only is it convenient for Blue Island residents but also for surrounding neighborhoods such as Alsip, Beverly and Rollins just to name a few. Especially in case of emergencies.

My name is Sara Brown, I'm the Executive Director of the Blue Island Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and I'm here speaking on behalf of our board of directors, our members, their employees and families, and the residents of Blue Island and our neighboring communities.

As the largest employer in our city's second largest employment sector, the closure of Metro South Medical Center would decimate 800 jobs at the core of our region's economy – that's 62% of the jobs currently held by professionals in health care and social services work in Blue Island. And that's only the beginning. Beyond the hospital closure's direct economic destruction, the crippling ripple effects on surrounding businesses would be devastating, most especially on retail trade, Blue Island's single largest employment sector. The closure of MetroSouth Medical Center derails south county efforts to establish workforce development and ongoing job-training initiatives for youth, as well as adults and veterans re-entering the workforce.

If only the economic impact of the hospital's closure was my sole interest in being here today... What you've heard from medical professionals and first responders about the danger to human lives if this hospital closes – the very real possibility that people will die without access to nearby critical emergency services and hospital care – while others in high paying positions among the for profit healthcare parent companies enjoy buyouts, payouts, and the smooth glide of a golden parachute, never have to question if an extra 12 minute drive might mean the difference between their loved one living or dying... that is the information we all need to listen to and understand today.

I urge the board to deny MetroSouth's application to close their facility. I call upon our elected leaders to use every possible tool in the box to delay the hospital's timeline for closure, and I thank you all for your efforts to date. To the staff at MetroSouth, I extend our community's sincerest gratitude for all you've done to take care of all of us, for more than 110 years. This is not a goodbye, but a chance for us all to embrace this challenge ahead of us, together, and to ensure that Blue Island and our neighbors have access to the critical care services our communities need for generations to come. Thank you.

Good afternoon, my name is Jeanne Kennedy and I want to thank the board to hear my comments. I'm been employed at MetroSouth Medical Center for the last 26 years. Currently I'm the Administrate Assistant in the Facilities Department.

My first comment: I've been a resident of Blue Island for the past several years and if MetroSouth Medical Center closes my biggest concern is where is the closes hospital for my health care needs.

My second comment: Is why MetroSouth Medical Center is closing which I think most of us are confused. Just a couple months ago are previous CEO stated to us that we will never close since we have a high volume of patients which we see in our Emergency Department. In the past several years we were informed the hospital was financial sound and patient volume and several service lines were increasing. In 2018 we were informed the hospital will be losing money due to the Medicare and Medicaid reduction. In the past year I have worked on reducing the service contacts in the facilities department which were able achieved whole reduction cost for the hospital.

My third comment: In the all years I been here we have never been at full capacity of 314 licensed beds.

In Summary I feel betrayed by Quorum Health Systems not only as an employee, but as resident of Blue Island to care for me and family health care issues.

Good afternoon.

My name is Karen Warrick

I was born and raised in Blue Island. Born at Metro, formerly St. Francis Hospital.

I delivered 5 of our 6 children at Metro / St Francis. While raising our children here in Blue Island it was always comforting know there was a hospital so close in case of an emergency.

I recently had an auto accident and was given a choice of South Suburban or Metro. I chose Metro because it is what I consider MY hospital of choice.

Having a hospital in your community is an asset that enhances not only business property, residential property but business prospects as well. In this time of high rising health insurance cost and care, losing a hospital is not advantageous to a community.

It is a vital part of our community that employs many.

I'm sure that a lot of the hospital employees do not need to worry about transportation due to the proximity of where they live AND work.

We have our business here in Blue Island, ACI Enterprises Inc., a paper recycling and public buy back center, and some of the reasons for having our business here, is the proximity of a hospital and transportation.

Businesses need that type of commitment from a community.

Thank you for hearing our comments today and hope that keeping the hospital open is a reality that could happen.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: MetroSouth Hospital & Medical Center

Project Number: E-024-19

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Rosalind Priest / 12905 S. Carpenter
City Calumet Pk State IL Zip 60827

II. REPRESENTATION (*This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of any group, organization or other entity.*) Calumet Township
Entity, Organization, etc. represented in this appearance (i.e., ABC Concerned Citizens for Health Care)

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support - CLOSE Oppose - REMAIN OPEN ~~Neutral~~

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

7/23/19

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: MetroSouth Hospital & Medical Center

Project Number: E-024-19

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Dee Konecy

City Blue Island State IL Zip 60400

II. REPRESENTATION (*This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of any group, organization or other entity.*)
Entity, Organization, etc. represented in this appearance (i.e., ABC Concerned Citizens for Health Care)
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III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support - CLOSE Oppose - REMAIN OPEN ~~Neutral~~

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

7/23/19

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: MetroSouth Hospital & Medical Center

Project Number: E-024-19

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Mayor John Ryan

City Alsip State IL Zip 60803

II. REPRESENTATION (*This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of any group, organization or other entity.*)
Entity, Organization, etc. represented in this appearance (i.e., ABC Concerned Citizens for Health Care) Village of Alsip

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

~~Support - OPPOSED~~ Oppose - REMAIN OPEN ~~Neutral~~

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

7/23/19

ASAP

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: MetroSouth Hospital & Medical Center

Project Number: E-024-19

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Randall Gordon

City Homewood State Il Zip 60430

II. REPRESENTATION (*This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of any group, organization or other entity.*)
Entity, Organization, etc. represented in this appearance (i.e., ABC Concerned Citizens for Health Care)
Dugoge Medical Group

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support - CLOSE Oppose - REMAIN OPEN Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

7/23/19

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: MetroSouth Hospital & Medical Center

Project Number: E-024-19

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) GERALD DAGENAIS
City BLUE ISLAND State IL Zip 60406

II. REPRESENTATION (*This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of any group, organization or other entity.*)
Entity, Organization, etc. represented in this appearance (i.e., ABC Concerned Citizens for Health Care)

SELF

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support - CLOSE Oppose - REMAIN OPEN ~~Neutral~~

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

7/23/19

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: MetroSouth Hospital & Medical Center

Project Number: E-024-19

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Gwen Miller
City Calumet Park State IL Zip 60827

II. REPRESENTATION (*This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of any group, organization or other entity.*)
Entity, Organization, etc. represented in this appearance (i.e., ABC Concerned Citizens for Health Care)
Concerned Citizens

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support - CLOSE Oppose - REMAIN OPEN

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

As a resident of Calumet Park for over 25 years I implore the committee to consider the individuals of the surrounding communities The underserved, the elderly, the children and those dealing with chronic illnesses. Please Do Not Close Metro South. My son would be dead without Metro South stabilizing him before transferring him to Christ trauma c

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: MetroSouth Hospital & Medical Center

Project Number: E-024-19

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Joseph Martin
City Blue Island State IL Zip 60406

II. REPRESENTATION (*This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of any group, organization or other entity.*)
Entity, Organization, etc. represented in this appearance (i.e., ABC Concerned Citizens for Health Care)

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support - CLOSE Oppose - REMAIN OPEN ~~Neutral~~

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

7/23/19

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: MetroSouth Hospital & Medical Center

Project Number: E-024-19

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Marsha O'Brien-Rauch
City Blue Island State IL Zip 60406

II. REPRESENTATION (*This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of any group, organization or other entity.*)
Entity, Organization, etc. represented in this appearance (i.e., ABC Concerned Citizens for Health Care)
Citizen

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support - CLOSE Oppose - REMAIN OPEN ~~Neutral~~

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

7/23/19