The Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson St. 2nd fl.
Springfield, IL 62761
Atn. Mr. Michel Constantino

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HEALTH FACILITIES & SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Aug. 8, 2019

R. C. Young
12440 Maple Ave.
Blue Island, IL 60406

Dear Sir,

As per our phone conversation of last week, I am writing with deep concern over the great number of emergency care hospitals that are being closed in our state. Blue Island has a for profit hospital named Metrosouth Medical Center which has closed its' emergency room and is planning to shut down all operations by the end of the year. For more than 100 years, this hospital was operated as St. Francis Hospital by the Sisters of St. Francis and was one of the top ten cardiac care hospitals in the United States until the Blagoyovich campaign organization attempted to extort a very large campaign contribution from the Sisters of St. Francis.

After that religious order decided not to submit to the political pressure they closed the hospital. Then Mayor of Blue Island Donald Peloquin led an effort to find a group to take over the facility and Metrosouth became the new operators of the facility. Metrosouth is a for-profit organization. Cut backs in Medicare and Medicaid funding have brought them to the point of exstreme reduction of medical services, with plans to close the facility by the end of this year.

The bitter fact is that this facility is located in a cluster of more than eighteen (18) communities and more than 300,000 citizens where railroad yards and lines, as well as, heavy urban traffic will and have caused tragic transportation obstructions of emergency paramedic units to the only two trauma hospitals now available in distant neighborhoods. There are two sets of north south main line rail systems that cross through many communities and often delay access to Advocate Christ Hospital at 4400 West 95th St. in Oak lawn. The only other available level-1 trauma center to our area is at the University of Chicago Medical Center near 55th St. in Chicago. Access to this facility is more often than not hindered by heavy urban traffic flow.

The Blue Island hospital is located in such a manner that rail overpasses and underpasses make it quickly accessible to the communities in our area. It is also very near super-highway interchanges which is ideal for rapid transport of traffic accident victims.

It is the belief of several fire chiefs I have talked with that this hospital should be re-established as at least a level - 2 trauma center because of the extra time NOW needed to transport emergency victims to the two distant hospitals

mentioned above. We are also very concerned about the potential of overload that we feel may now exist at the two remaining trauma hospitals available to citizens in the southern part of the Chicago metropolitan area.

The Blue Island hospital should be reconstituted as a "Safety Net" hospital. Is it possible to make it an adjunct of Christ Community Hospital or University of Chicago Hospital with level-1 or level - 2 status? The towns and neighborhoods east of the north south rail lines and rail yards need this hospital.

We didnot include numbers for communities south of Harvey which are now required to transport emergency cases as far as Kankakee or Mokena.

The United States spends twice as much money per patient for medical care than any other nation in the world. Seventeen other nations in the world provide better medical care for their citizens than we do. And! They do it at less than half the cost per patient than we do in the United States!!

Cut backs in Medicare and Medicaid are going to force more than 25 hospitals in our state to close this year according to a Public Broadcasting System documentary I viewed this summer. It is also noted that sixty percent or more of families in the United States are only one paycheck away from financial catastrophy if they have a medical emergency.

Our federal government has just put through a tax cut where 80 percent of the money is going to the top one percent of income earners and corporations. Our national deficit is growing at a rate of 1.45 trillion dollars per year while cut backs in Medicare and Medicaid are forcing hospitals to do away with emergency care and go out of business. Something is very wrong with our health care system, and some where in the system - outrageous profiteering is taking place!

Very truly yours,

R. C. Young

Ronald C. Young

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