

From: [Abraham Shurland](#)
To: [DPH-DL - DoN Program](#)
Subject: Testimony - Mass General Brigham Incorporated – Multisite - 21012113-AS.
Date: Friday, April 02, 2021 8:05:22 PM

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Lara Szent-Gyorgyi
Director, Determination of Need Program
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, 6th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Ms. Szent-Gyorgyi:

I would like to share my concerns with the Department of Public Health about the expansion plans of Mass General Brigham and their intent to develop an ambulatory surgery center in Woburn.

I am an orthopedic surgeon at Agility Orthopedics. I have practiced out of our Stoneham office for the last 13 years. I work out of 2 hospitals in this community, Melrose Wakefield Hospital and Winchester Hospital. I have practiced orthopedics in Massachusetts for 18 years. I attended college at Tufts University. My fellowship in sports medicine was at the New England Baptist Hospital. So I am very familiar with the area and the medical community.

I am concerned about the proposed scope of expansion of Mass General Brigham in this area. I think it will increase the cost of care in this community without adding value for routine care.

In 2015, the Commonwealth halted then Partners HealthCare's acquisition of the Hallmark Health System – now MGB and Melrose Wakefield Healthcare, respectively – due to concern about market power and the negative impact to consumers.

I supported the acquisition at the time because I saw MGB using its deep pockets to support the community mission that was already in place to provide healthcare to all including those with mental illness, those with addiction and those with poor insurance plans. Now, five years later, MGB is looking to come into the same community, but this time with the ability to pick and choose how they want to interact with the community. They can reach out to the well insured, mobile and educated patients, leaving the financial burden of managing the rest of the

community to the community hospitals. Running our hospitals is normally a difficult proposition, but under these conditions it may become impossible. If the acquisition of Melrose Wakefield Healthcare five years ago was a bad idea, then this is even worse.

MGB's narrative is that they are pursuing this expansion for the convenience of their patients. But we all know that once this facility is built in Woburn they will use their deep pockets and reputation to attract primary care physicians away from community health systems and have them bring their patient panels with them. They will also bring specialists into the community to attract away procedures that help to keep community hospitals afloat.

We have been working hard in the community to provide excellent care at lower costs. Melrose Wakefield has even gone into a partnership with its physicians and Shields to build a free standing ambulatory surgery center in Medford to provide excellent care at a fraction of the cost of what the Applicant has proposed.

I appreciate having major academic centers 15 miles down the road to help treat my patients with complex problems that are beyond the scope of community care in the area. This expansion will route people away from our community resources for routine care that is best done in community hospitals, clinics and surgery centers.

I specifically request that the Department of Public Health require the Health Policy Commission to conduct the independent cost analysis to show us the impact of building this facility in Woburn, MA. I also request that additional public hearings be scheduled after the independent cost analysis has been conducted so the people of this community have a chance to participate in the decision-making process in an informed manner.

Sincerely
Abraham Shurland

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Alexis](#)
To: [DPH-DL - DoN Program](#)
Subject: DoN – Mass General Brigham Incorporated – Multisite - 21012113-AS
Date: Tuesday, April 06, 2021 8:50:32 AM

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As a local resident and Mass General Brigham employee, I am excited to receive world-class healthcare 10 minutes away from my house. Mass General Brigham offering an integrated care approach close to home is extremely important to me. Thanks very much for your support.

Best,
Alexis Williamson

Alexis
awilliamson17@gmail.com
Reading

April 14, 2021

To the DoN Committee:

My name is Ada, a resident in Malden. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I am writing to express my concerns related to the Massachusetts General Brigham's proposed new ambulatory expansion site that will be located in Woburn; DoN 21012113-AS. This multi-million dollar expansion would have a massive negative impact on the cost of care and the ability for local community health care organizations to continue to support our residents.

I agree that great health care, delivered in the community for a lower cost is what is best for residents of the Commonwealth. However, I believe that the expansion of Mass General Brigham (MGB) ambulatory services into Woburn will increase the cost of care in our community without increasing the quality of care for patients. MGB has a track record of merging, acquiring or pushing out community health care systems and then pricing services at a higher cost, increasing the financial burden placed upon patients throughout the Commonwealth.

Woburn is not a medically underserved community. Woburn is already well-served by high-quality, low-cost healthcare providers. Approving MGB's application to expand into our community will threaten the financial viability of local practitioners and smaller health care systems, replacing quality care offered at affordable rates by local medical institutions with the same services at higher price points. Any increases to the cost of care are unacceptable and untenable in an already highly expensive market. I believe that the expansion of Mass General Brigham (MGB) ambulatory services into Woburn will threaten essential local jobs and the financial viability of critical community care institutions.

I believe that the expansion of Mass General Brigham (MGB) ambulatory services into Woburn is likely to worsen existing health disparities. The proposed MGB sites target higher income, predominantly white, mobile, commercially insured populations already served by existing providers. The proposed locations are not easily accessible to residents of low-income communities with barriers to health care, leaving access and the needs of many residents behind. MGB will be drawing commercially insured patients away from local community providers who rely on that care to subsidize patients that are insured by public programs, such as Medicare or Medicaid, or who are uninsured. Our local community providers will continue to serve those patients even if their commercial volume is negatively impacted by MGB. However, these same providers may be financially forced to close much needed medical services,

resulting in reduced safety net care for our communities' most vulnerable patients, while the most privileged migrate to MGB.

In closing, I truly believe in health care cost-containment, partnership, and the spirit of equitable collaboration where all sizes and types of healthcare organizations work together to benefit their communities. I respectfully ask MDPH to closely look at this request and do a full data analysis and hold additional public hearings. Furthermore, consider the fact that the real opportunity is to optimize the use of existing health care services rather than approve new services that are not needed.

Sincerely,

Ada He

39 Ivy Rd,

Malden, MA.02148

Email: Adazheng0928@gmail.com

Testimony at DPH Public Hearing on MGB's proposal to build medical facilities in Woburn, MA
Thursday, March 25, 2021

Mr. Chairman, my name is Alan Macdonald. I live at 7 Wainwright Road in Winchester. I am a former trustee, and a former President of Melrose Wakefield Healthcare, then known as Hallmark Health; but I am no longer affiliated with any healthcare network, and I speak for myself at this public hearing.

My testimony is to say I do not believe there is a need for the services proposed by MGB for the Woburn site, and, if DPH were to determine there is a need, I believe the services proposed by MGB would be more costly for this area than is now the case.

Mr. Chairman, from 2014 to 2016, in my then capacity for Hallmark Health, I heard repeatedly from DPH that a move by Mass General Hospital's network into this local area would raise the overall costs of health care, and that Hallmark Health's ability to provide community healthcare at reasonable costs would have to be done outside an affiliation with MGH. It took a little while for that advice to take hold, because Hallmark Health was in an exclusive arrangement with MGH at that time, but we did take it as a directive to find a different arrangement that would provide the resources and the competitive strength to allow community healthcare to survive in this area, with high quality at reasonable costs.

After hearing from a number of healthcare networks interested in serving patients in this area, Hallmark Health merged, as you know, with Tufts Medical Center and Circle Health of Lowell. That merger, now in its fifth year, has provided vigorous competition around Greater Woburn, and because of the competition, this area has the skill, capacity and cost management to do what MGB proposes in its current petition to provide surgical services and cost savings.

However, as DPH determined only a half-decade ago, over similar arguments for cost-savings as now expressed by MGB, approval of this proposal would not result in cost saving outcomes. Others have spoken to the weaknesses behind predicted cost savings in this proposal, so I won't repeat those points. Only to say, first, I do not believe this proposal shows any need in the Greater Woburn area that is not being addressed and served by existing community networks, particularly the Lahey/Winchester and Wellforce/Melrose Wakefield networks. Secondly, if DPH were to determine there may be such a need, prior review by DPH in similar circumstances indicates there is no overall cost benefit to be gained by approving the proposal considered at this public hearing.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to this proposal.

From: [Alex Vanni](#)
To: [DPH-DL - DoN Program](#)
Subject: Mass General Brigham Vale Project
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 11:09:58 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Madams and Sirs:

I am writing as an employee of Lahey Hospital and Medical Center to voice my strong **opposition against** the *Mass General Brigham* outpatient center proposed for Woburn, MA for several reasons:

- This outpatient center will increase healthcare costs in the Commonwealth as *Mass General Brigham* has much higher reimbursements than other health care systems, even when care is provided in the community.
- Given the availability of primary care physicians, specialty care physicians, ambulatory surgery, CT scans, MRIs, and other community hospital services currently available in the Woburn area, this proposed outpatient center includes duplicative services and presents an unnecessary threat to the local physician practices and community hospitals, including Winchester Hospital and Melrose-Wakefield Healthcare.
- This outpatient center will endanger our private medical practices, where primary care physicians and specialists are offering exceptional care at lower costs. Our local physicians include some of the highest reputation physicians in the region, providing high quality care at a much lower cost, as compared to *Mass General Brigham* providers.
- Approval of this outpatient center would threaten the ability of existing high value providers (high quality and low cost) to continue to serve the residents of Woburn and surrounding cities and towns. .

Please **STOP** this project to prevent escalation of healthcare costs and to maintain high value care for the patients and employers of the region.

Sincerely,

--

Alex J. Vanni, MD, FACS

Director: Fellowship in Reconstructive Urologic Surgery
Center for Reconstructive Urologic Surgery

Lahey Hospital and Medical Center

[REDACTED]

781-744-5429 (F)

<https://www.lahey.org/ReconstructiveUrology/>



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From: [Alison](#)
To: [DPH-DL - DoN Program](#)
Subject: DoN – Mass General Brigham Incorporated – Multisite - 21012113-AS
Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 4:27:09 PM

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As a local resident and Mass General Brigham employee, our relationship with and accessibility to our patients is at the heart of the healthcare experience. For years, I have felt underserved by the healthcare options in the Woburn area, both for myself and my family, as we our main hospital is the MGH.

Recently, I have experienced health challenges requiring specialty care, as has my mother. Our conditions required multiple, frequent visits to both MGH Boston and MGH Danvers. During these times, it became evident that these locations, although appearing close on a map, were both inconvenient and time-consuming to access from Woburn.

As a healthcare worker, I have heard time and time again from innumerable patients living in the Woburn/Winchester/Stoneham/Lexington area about the desire for more accessible MGB sites. As a parent, I have discovered that the medical facilities local to Woburn do not have dedicated pediatric-specific services (i.e. specialties such as pediatric dermatology, pediatric orthopaedics, pediatric cardiology, etc.). As a patient, there are some glaring healthcare needs in the area, including mental health, primary care, and pediatrics, all of which are grossly underserved in this region.

Understanding our patients' personal stories and medical needs, while providing care at a site that is accessible to the Woburn-area - an area that is currently underrepresented by the MGB system - allows for convenient, high-caliber, cost-effective care.

Our response to COVID-19 is an example of how a coordinated approach can result in better access, treatment and patient outcomes. I support this project, and I am looking forward to working with Woburn and the surrounding communities to ensure that Mass General Brigham uses our people, research, and technology to meet the needs of our patients and employees.

Alison
agiardina@mgh.harvard.edu
Woburn

From: [Alexa Sequeira](#)
To: [DPH-DL - DoN Program](#)
Subject: Mass General Brigham Plan
Date: Thursday, April 08, 2021 4:55:30 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Madams and Sirs:

I am writing as an employee of Winchester Hospital to voice my strong **opposition against** the Mass General Brigham outpatient center proposed for Woburn, MA for several reasons:

- This outpatient center will increase healthcare costs in the Commonwealth as Mass General Brigham has much higher reimbursements than other health care systems, even when care is provided in the community.
- Given the availability of primary care physicians, specialty care physicians, ambulatory surgery, CT scans, MRIs, and other community hospital services currently available in the Woburn area, this proposed outpatient center includes duplicative services and presents an unnecessary threat to the local physician practices and community hospitals, including Winchester Hospital and Melrose-Wakefield Healthcare.
- This outpatient center will endanger our private medical practices, where primary care physicians and specialists are offering exceptional care at lower costs. Our local physicians include some of the highest reputation physicians in the region, providing high quality care at a much lower cost, as compared to Mass General Brigham providers.
- Approval of this outpatient center would threaten the ability of existing high value providers (high quality and low cost) to continue to serve the residents of Woburn and surrounding cities and towns.

Please **STOP** this project to prevent escalation of healthcare costs and to maintain high value care for the patients and employers of the region.

Sincerely,

Alexa Sequeira, NP-C

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From: [Amanda](#)
To: [DPH-DL - DoN Program](#)
Subject: DoN – Mass General Brigham Incorporated – Multisite - 21012113-AS
Date: Thursday, March 25, 2021 11:43:34 AM

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As a local resident and Mass General Brigham employee, I believe our relationship with our patients is at the heart of the healthcare experience – for patients, their communities, care team members, and employees.

Understanding our patients' personal stories and building a lifelong relationship is crucial to making healthcare less complicated, less fragmented, and less costly.

Our response to COVID-19 is an example of how a coordinated approach can result in better access. I support his project, and I am looking forward to working with Woburn and the surrounding communities to ensure that Mass General Brigham that uses our people, research, and technology to meet the needs of our patients.

Amanda
burlington

From: [Amy](#)
To: [DPH-DL - DoN Program](#)
Subject: DoN – Mass General Brigham Incorporated – Multisite - 21012113-AS
Date: Saturday, April 03, 2021 11:31:07 AM

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As a local resident, I support Mass General Brigham's project to provide the same healthcare I receive today in Boston closer to my home. We need more access to care in our community – especially behavioral health, which this site will provide.

The project will also provide much needed jobs, including 300 union construction jobs and 200 permanent jobs, that will help our local economy emerge from the pandemic.

I support the Mass General Brigham project and ask the Department of Public Health to approve this application.

Amy
dalton.amy@verizon.net
Winchester

From: [aNA](#)
To: [DPH-DL - DoN Program](#)
Subject: DoN – Mass General Brigham Incorporated – Multisite - 21012113-AS
Date: Saturday, April 10, 2021 2:14:59 PM

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As a local resident, I support Mass General Brigham's project to provide the same healthcare I receive today in Boston closer to my home. We need more access to care in our community – especially behavioral health, which this site will provide.

The project will also provide much needed jobs, including 300 union construction jobs and 200 permanent jobs, that will help our local economy emerge from the pandemic.

I support the Mass General Brigham project and ask the Department of Public Health to approve this application.

aNA
abardales@partners.org
Woburn

From: [William Breckwoldt](#)
To: [Andrew Escoll](#)
Cc: [DPH-DL - DoN Program](#)
Subject: Re: MGB Proposed Woburn Project- Opposition
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 1:44:15 PM

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Well said!

On Tue, Mar 30, 2021 at 11:51 AM Andrew Escoll <andrew.j.escollmd@lahey.org> wrote:

I spoke during the 3/26/21 DPH meeting and would like to reiterate my concerns about the MGB proposed Woburn project.

I am a Family Physician affiliated with Winchester Hospital and Chairman of The Department of Family Medicine.

My group has an office at 88 Montvale Avenue, literally only a block from the site.

We have well established ,long term and personal important Doctor- Patient relationships that clearly would be jeopardized by this project. We also have an ongoing relationship and responsibility to the surrounding communities in Stoneham, Woburn and Winchester as opposed to the generic- style inherent in the proposal.

I would like to refute the MGB talking points that were presented.

1) Need- The area is already saturated and well served by existing primary care, speciality services, imaging and surgical services.

2) Lower Cost- As had been pointed out- MGH has historically considerably higher costs across the board for medical and surgical services, and transferring costs to an outpatient center that only duplicates existing services will only raise medical costs for the State.

3) Integration- Already accomplished by Winchester Hospital/ BILH and done well and efficiently

4) Quality and Safety- Winchester Hospital has been awarded repeatedly for its leadership in high quality, state of the art and care with an eye on safe practices and top notch , award winning Nursing care

5) Health Equity- This is nothing but a cynical use of the term. Try Lawrence, Brockton, Springfield, New Bedford,etc. unless you are looking to cherry-pick the high yield private pay insurances form the communities around Woburn.

6) Mental Health- I think there is a need for Inpatient Psychiatric beds especially child and adolescent care and I would have no problem if that was the proposal. As for that exiting new idea of imbedded mental health with primary care-- we are already doing that in our practices.

Despite being part of a great system , BILH, Winchester Hospital is really still run by Physicians and Nurses . We are not a cog in a large generic system but are a part of the life of our patients and community. MGB's proposal is really nothing more than a naked power grab for increased market share. As far as determination of need: There is no need. That is absurd .

Andrew Escoll, MD

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applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient, your use of this message for any purpose is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please delete the message and notify the sender so that we may correct our records. See our web page at <http://www.lahey.org> for a full directory of Lahey sites, staff, services and career opportunities.

From: [Andrew Lubin](#)
To: [DPH-DL - DoN Program](#)
Subject: The Vale Project
Date: Thursday, April 08, 2021 5:21:42 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed outpatient medical center proposed by Mass General Brigham in Woburn, MA.

The site would cover the same patient population as is already being covered by Winchester Hospital, Melrose Wakefield Hospital, and Lahey Clinic. There is not only a lack of need for these additional providers/services, but this project also threatens the existence of the already established local community hospitals and their providers.

In addition, this proposed project would risk increasing healthcare costs by driving out smaller community providers and replacing them with higher cost services linked to the larger health system.

This project may be worthwhile in a different location where there are not duplicative services and where patients are in greater need of access to healthcare. This location simply does not make sense.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Andrew Lubin, MD
Internal Medicine (Primary Care)
Infectious Diseases
Winchester Hospital

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From: [Andy Freed](#)
To: [DPH-DL - DoN Program](#)
Subject: Testimony - Mass General Brigham Incorporated – Multisite - 21012113-AS
Date: Sunday, April 11, 2021 11:06:51 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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Ms. Szent-Gyorgyi—

Please find below for submission to the public record my comments at the public hearing of March 25, 2021.

- I live in Melrose and am the Chief Executive Officer at Virtual, a 200 employee professional services firm based in Wakefield. I also serve on Melrose Wakefield Healthcare’s Board of Trustees.
- When I moved here twenty years ago, there were four family run hardware stores in town.
- They were great. Service was excellent. They employed kids from the community. And their prices were always reasonable.
- But times changed. In came Home Depot and Lowes.
- And before you knew it, all four or our local stores were gone. Jobs disappeared. And costs for so many services went up.
- Now, I know we’re not here today to talk about hardware, we’re here to talk about health care.
- But the lessons are the same.
- We’re fortunate in this community to have health care facilities that serve the needs of the community well. Local organizations where neighbors are caring for neighbors.
- Put simply, Mass General Brigham has a track record of doing to community based providers what Home Depot does to a local hardware store. Costs go up. Jobs go down. And the word “community” just doesn’t exist.
- No question, there is a place for providers like Mass General Brigham in our health care system. We are fortunate to have a wealth of health care providers in Boston.
- But the decision of whether they belong in our community, in Woburn, requires a careful consideration of costs and collateral damage. And that type of assessment requires a thoughtful, open process.
- I encourage the Department to engage more deeply in that process through completing a detailed cost review and by soliciting more extensive public input before moving forward. To those points, I would like to politely request that the Department require the independent cost analysis to be conducted by the Health Policy Commission and schedule another public hearing for after the analysis has been completed.

- Because losing a hardware store is a matter of inconvenience. Losing locally based care is a matter of life and death.
- Thank you.

Andy Freed | CEO | Virtual, Inc.

██████████ | ██████████

afreed@virtualinc.com | S: @andy_freed

virtualinc.com | [LinkedIn](#) | [Twitter](#)

401 Edgewater Place, Suite 600, Wakefield, MA, 01880 USA



Wakefield | Nashville | Reston/Washington, DC | Palo Alto

From: [Ann](#)
To: [DPH-DL - DoN Program](#)
Subject: DoN – Mass General Brigham Incorporated – Multisite - 21012113-AS
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 12:09:49 PM

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As a local resident, I support Mass General Brigham's project to provide the same healthcare I receive today in Boston closer to my home. We need more access to care in our community – especially behavioral health, which this site will provide.

The project will also provide much needed jobs, including 300 union construction jobs and 200 permanent jobs, that will help our local economy emerge from the pandemic.

I support the Mass General Brigham project and ask the Department of Public Health to approve this application.

Ann
ahanafin78@gmail.com
Tewksbury

From: [Anna Leszczynski](#)
To: [DPH-DL - DoN Program](#)
Subject: Opposed to MGH/Brigham outpatient center in Woburn
Date: Friday, April 09, 2021 9:10:18 AM

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Dear Madams and Sirs:

I am writing as an employee of Lahey Hospital and Winchester Hospital to voice my strong **opposition against** the Mass General Brigham outpatient center proposed for Woburn, MA for several reasons:

- This outpatient center will increase healthcare costs in the Commonwealth as Mass General Brigham has much higher reimbursements than other health care systems, even when care is provided in the community.
- Given the availability of primary care physicians, specialty care physicians, ambulatory surgery, CT scans, MRIs, and other community hospital services currently available in the Woburn area, this proposed outpatient center includes duplicative services and presents an unnecessary threat to the local physician practices and community hospitals, including Winchester Hospital and Melrose-Wakefield Healthcare.
- This outpatient center will endanger our private medical practices, where primary care physicians and specialists are offering exceptional care at lower costs. Our local physicians include some of the highest reputation physicians in the region, providing high quality care at a much lower cost, as compared to Mass General Brigham providers.
- Approval of this outpatient center would threaten the ability of existing high value providers (high quality and low cost) to continue to serve the residents of Woburn and surrounding cities and towns.

Please **STOP** this project to prevent escalation of healthcare costs and to maintain high value care for the patients and employers of the region.

Sincerely,

Anna Leszczynski

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Oral Testimony re: Mass General Brigham Determination of Need Application - March 25, 2021

Introduction

- Good morning, my name is Anna Tonseth. I appreciate the opportunity to share my concerns with the Department of Public Health about MGB's community expansion plans and intent to establish an outpatient center in Woburn.
- I currently serve as a Business Development Analyst for Shields Health Care Group. Being affiliated with an outpatient services provider, both in imaging and ambulatory surgery, I have significant concerns about how MGB's proposed expansion will impact the cost of care and other healthcare providers in the region.

Market Demand and Cost of Care

- After substantial analysis, I believe there is not enough community demand to warrant MGB's proposed expansion of imaging and ambulatory surgery services in Woburn.
- Given that there are 39 MRI units with DON approval in the primary service area and slightly outside, the patient panel within the region has ample access to MRI service offerings, with many being on Independent Diagnostic Testing Facility rates. 12 of the 39 MRI units noted are currently owned and operated by MGB such that patients wanting to receive care within the network have the ability to do so easily.
- As such, there is quite frankly not enough demand to justify the addition of not just one, but two MRI units in Woburn.
- In addition, throughout the DON MGB continually pointed to the reduction in scan times due to improvements in technology. Multiple times, including in a presentation to community members, MGB noted that scan times would be between 15-30 minutes. However, in actual capacity calculations, MGB utilized a scan time of 45 minutes. Not only does this discrepancy highlight MGB's underestimate of capacity, but also signifies the need for additional data from MGB to prove the need for multiple units.
- On the ambulatory surgery side, Woburn is already well-served by high-quality, low-cost healthcare providers, including the ambulatory surgery center owned and operated by Melrose Wakefield, Shields ASC, and multiple community physicians. The DoN program's regulation concerning ambulatory expansion was designed by DPH to protect community hospitals from the proximate development of ambulatory surgical centers without the community hospital's consent or participation. Approving MGB's application would threaten the future of community hospitals and other low-cost providers in the area.

Concluding Argument

- On another note, the primary service outlined by MGB includes zip codes previously outlined in the Somerville DON Application approved February 2020. I would like to ask DPH to ensure scan volume is not being double counted.
- In order to accurately understand the impact of this proposal, I also suggest that an additional public hearing be scheduled for after the independent cost analysis has been conducted. Thank you for your time.

From: [Anne](#)
To: [DPH-DL - DoN Program](#)
Subject: DoN – Mass General Brigham Incorporated – Multisite - 21012113-AS
Date: Thursday, March 25, 2021 11:44:41 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As a local resident and Mass General Brigham employee, I believe our relationship with our patients is at the heart of the healthcare experience – for patients, their communities, care team members, and employees.

Understanding our patients' personal stories and building a lifelong relationship is crucial to making healthcare less complicated, less fragmented, and less costly.

Our response to COVID-19 is an example of how a coordinated approach can result in better access. I support his project, and I am looking forward to working with Woburn and the surrounding communities to ensure that Mass General Brigham that uses our people, research, and technology to meet the needs of our patients.

Anne
Billerica

From: [Anthony Martyniak](#)
To: [DPH-DL - DoN Program](#)
Subject: Mass General Brigham Plans for an Outpatient Center in Woburn
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 9:12:14 AM

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Dear Madams and Sirs:

I am writing as a staff physician at Winchester Hospital to voice my strong **opposition against** the *Mass General Brigham* outpatient center proposed for Woburn, MA for several reasons:

- This outpatient center will increase healthcare costs in the Commonwealth as *Mass General Brigham* has much higher reimbursements than other health care systems, even when care is provided in the community.
- This outpatient center will further expand the *Mass General Brigham* monopoly, which will also contribute to driving up health care costs. Even during the pandemic, *Mass General Brigham* profits were over \$1 billion, in part due to their monopoly and higher reimbursements.
- Given the ample supply of primary care physicians, specialty care physicians, ambulatory surgery, and other community hospital services currently available in the Woburn area, this proposed outpatient center includes duplicative services and presents an unnecessary threat to the local physician practices and community hospitals, including Winchester Hospital.
- This outpatient center will endanger our private medical practices, where primary care physicians and specialists are offering exceptional care at lower costs. Our local physicians include some of the highest reputation physicians in the region, providing high quality care at a much lower cost, as compared to *Mass General Brigham* providers.
- Community hospitals and private practices cannot fairly compete against the *Mass General Brigham* business model. Approval of this outpatient center could result in putting high value providers (high quality and low cost) out of business.

STOP this project to prevent escalation of healthcare costs, preserve private medical practice, protect community hospitals, and maintain high value care for the patients and employers of the Winchester Hospital community.

Sincerely,

Anthony Martyniak, M.D.

Chair, Department of Pathology, Winchester Hospital

Medical Director, Winchester Hospital Laboratory

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From: [April](#)
To: [DPH-DL - DoN Program](#)
Subject: DoN – Mass General Brigham Incorporated – Multisite - 21012113-AS
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 3:48:49 PM

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As a local resident, I support Mass General Brigham's project to provide the same healthcare I receive today in Boston closer to my home. We need more access to care in our community – especially behavioral health, which this site will provide.

The project will also provide much needed jobs, including 300 union construction jobs and 200 permanent jobs, that will help our local economy emerge from the pandemic.

I support the Mass General Brigham project and ask the Department of Public Health to approve this application.

April
akdrolette@gmail.com
Woburn

From: [ashok](#)
To: [DPH-DL - DoN Program](#)
Subject: DoN – Mass General Brigham Incorporated – Multisite - 21012113-AS
Date: Tuesday, April 06, 2021 9:03:20 AM

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As a local resident and Mass General Brigham employee, I believe our relationship with our patients is at the heart of the healthcare experience – for patients, their communities, care team members, and employees.

Understanding our patients' personal stories and building a lifelong relationship is crucial to making healthcare less complicated, less fragmented, and less costly.

Our response to COVID-19 is an example of how a coordinated approach can result in better access. I support this project, and I am looking forward to working with Woburn and the surrounding communities to ensure that Mass General Brigham that uses our people, research, and technology to meet the needs of our patients.

ashok
mdashok@yahoo.com
WINCHESTER

From: [Asimena Angelidou](#)
To: [DPH-DL - DoN Program](#)
Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 11:40:32 AM

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Dear Madams and Sirs:

I am writing as a Winchester hospital employee and Winchester Town resident to voice my strong **opposition against** the Mass General Brigham outpatient center proposed for Woburn, MA for several reasons:

- This outpatient center will increase healthcare costs in the Commonwealth as Mass General Brigham has much higher reimbursements than other health care systems, even when care is provided in the community.
- Given the availability of primary care physicians, specialty care physicians, ambulatory surgery, CT scans, MRIs, and other community hospital services currently available in the broader area around Woburn, this proposed outpatient center includes duplicative services and presents an unnecessary threat to the local physician practices and community hospitals, including Winchester Hospital and Melrose-Wakefield Healthcare.
- This outpatient center will endanger our private medical practices, where primary care physicians and specialists are offering exceptional care at lower costs. Our local physicians include some of the highest reputation physicians in the region, providing high quality care at a much lower cost, as compared to Mass General Brigham providers.
- Approval of this outpatient center would threaten the ability of existing high value providers (high quality and low cost) to continue to serve the residents of Woburn and surrounding cities and towns.

As a resident who lives in this area, I am also concerned about the environmental impact such a large project could have in our community, especially since there is no need for another medical facility in such close proximity to the existing centers.

Please **STOP** this project to prevent escalation of healthcare costs, maintain high value care for the patients and employers of the region, and protect the environment.

Sincerely,

From: [Avignat Patel](#)
To: [DPH-DL - DoN Program](#)
Subject: Proposed MGB Woburn outpatient center
Date: Thursday, April 08, 2021 4:51:55 PM
Attachments: [Signature.png](#)

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Dear Madams and Sirs:

I am writing as an employee of Winchester Hospital to voice my strong **opposition against** the Mass General Brigham outpatient center proposed for Woburn, MA for several reasons:

- This outpatient center will increase healthcare costs in the Commonwealth as Mass General Brigham has much higher reimbursements than other health care systems, even when care is provided in the community.
- Given the availability of primary care physicians, specialty care physicians, ambulatory surgery, CT scans, MRIs, and other community hospital services currently available in the Woburn area, this proposed outpatient center includes duplicative services and presents an unnecessary threat to the local physician practices and community hospitals, including Winchester Hospital and Melrose-Wakefield Healthcare.
- This outpatient center will endanger our private medical practices, where primary care physicians and specialists are offering exceptional care at lower costs. Our local physicians include some of the highest reputation physicians in the region, providing high quality care at a much lower cost, as compared to Mass General Brigham providers.
- Approval of this outpatient center would threaten the ability of existing high value providers (high quality and low cost) to continue to serve the residents of Woburn and surrounding cities and towns.

Please **STOP** this project to prevent escalation of healthcare costs and to maintain high value care for the patients and employers of the region.

Sincerely,



Avignat Patel, MD

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Asimena Angelidou, MD PhD
Attending Neonatologist, Winchester Hospital and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Instructor in Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School
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