

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Determination of Need Program

250 Washington St.

Boston, Ma 02108

To whom it may concern:

On August 22nd I was at the DPH hearing concerning a surgical center at the LMH. As you know there was a full house. Many residents spoke, I wanted to be one of them, but speaking in front of all those people was too over whelming. Therefore I am writing this letter.

I am asking that the DPH either reject or delay approval of this project until all concerns by the residents be honestly addressed.

On August 15th I attended the meeting where Wellforce presented their "vision" of an Ambulatory Surgical Center. The room was filled, most were against their plan. It was interesting to me that a Medford resident, who is against their plan, was asking many of us why we were not at the meeting when it was discussed that Wellforce was closing Lawrence Memorial Hospital? All of us answered the same. We did not know of that meeting. We were never notified. It was a secret that was kept by Wellforce, the Mayor and other leaders in Medford. It certainly was not made public knowledge.

The Lawrence Memorial Hospital was always an excellent hospital. The doctors were outstanding, nursing care was excellent, the emergency room was busy and provided top notch

care. My very first job out of nursing school was in the OR at LMH. I have always been proud of our hospital. Yes, unfortunately, medicine has changed. But somehow this company called Wellforce came to LMH and did all that they could to get rid of our hospital. They wanted to build up Melrose Wakefield. Which as far as I can tell, and I have been there, cannot hold a candle to LMH. Wellforce is the cause of the demise of LMH. Now they want to ruin the land and the grounds and the beautiful neighborhood around our hospital. They want to build an unneeded and unwanted Ambulatory Surgical Center. A place to treat'em and street'em.

At the meeting on August 15th, there was a lot of talk about "need", parking, construction, the beautiful trees, the traffic. Wellforce hedged on every question. They were not honest, they really didn't care about the impact on the community and the neighbors. They couldn't or wouldn't answer questions about parking. They couldn't or wouldn't answer questions about where the building would be built. They couldn't or wouldn't answer questions about why they can't use the present LMH except that it was a money issue. They did not want to discuss the plans for LMH. They were not honest as they have already made markings on the sidewalks and parking lot as to where the new building would go, but yet they denied that. They told us they weren't sure about the site, that is a blatant lie. They hedged on what will happen with the psych unit. They hedged on what will happen with the ER. They are not sure about Prompt Care or where the residents of Medford will get emergency care. Actually they aren't sure about anything but money and putting up a new building.

Towards the end of the meeting when they were openly annoyed with all of us, I forced myself to ask a question. My question was not about the structure, the parking, the parking lot, what sneaky plans they have for the future, and I'm sure they have some big plans for their financial gain, and only their financial gain. I asked about the care of the patients in "their" new Surgical Center. I asked what are the plans for the patient if something seriously goes wrong during a surgical procedure? I asked what are your plans for pediatric patients as kids are tricky and they can crash in a heartbeat. I asked what happens to the patient if they are discharged home and a crisis happens at home. Where do they go? What do they do? The doctor answered. He said, all that has to be worked out but "I can assure you that it will be fine". It will be fine? For goodness sake, they are making all these huge money making plans, taking our hospital away from the citizens of Medford, destroying our neighborhood, but can't give a straight answer about medical care.

I am asking you to PLEASE deny their request or at the very least delay approval of this project until Wellforce can give us honest information about why they can't renovate our existing hospital, where they will construct this new building, how they will handle traffic, how it will impact our community, what they will do with our ER, where will the citizens of Medford get emergency care. But most of all, be able to tell us about the care of the patient while they are in "their" surgical center.

Thank You,

Maureen S. Kacinski



Someone told me to never write a letter that is longer than 1 page. Because that is all the person reading it will read before shutting down. I pray this does not happen with the DPH.