

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Catherine Criner <cathyrnccm@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2020 1:22 PM  
**To:** Chris O'Brien  
**Subject:** Fwd: Closure of Eleanor Slater Hospital

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Catherine Criner <[cathyrnccm@gmail.com](mailto:cathyrnccm@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Tue, Sep 29, 2020, 1:15 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Closure of Eleanor Slater Hospital  
**To:** <[cobrien@rilegislature.gov](mailto:cobrien@rilegislature.gov)>

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Catherine Criner <[cathyrnccm@gmail.com](mailto:cathyrnccm@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Mon, Sep 28, 2020, 11:10 PM  
**Subject:** Closure of Eleanor Slater Hospital  
**To:** <[cobrien@rilegislature.gove](mailto:cobrien@rilegislature.gove)>

Dear Legislators:

As a tax payer and citizen of the State of Rhode Island and a certified case manager and health care professional, I am compelled to write to you to fight against the closure of The Eleanor Slater Hospital that is being proposed.

This hospital is the last resort for these patients who did not ask to be afflicted with mental illness, some forensic. They are the forgotten ones that the staff at Eleanor Slater have provided a safe home for and effectively manage their care. Nursing homes and group homes are ill prepared to manage their needs in better times never mind these times of Covid. If these patients are transferred to group homes or nursing homes they will "act out". They would then be sent to area hospitals and tax resources needed for acutely ill patients. Nursing homes and group homes will not accept them back due to behavioral issues and they will have nowhere to go. This, in turn, will bottleneck hospitals where these patients will sit until a resource is found to care for them, sometimes months with Eleanor Slater being that place. We cannot allow this to happen when patients who need care for heart attacks, strokes and other medical emergencies need these beds and care. They cannot be safely housed in the community without the risk of endangering the public and further taxing law enforcement.

Our mental health system is ill prepared to handle these patients as there are currently not enough resources to handle even acute mental health issues with a lack of beds in mental health institutions.

Let our legislators be part of the solution rather than adding to the problem. Do not allow this to happen. Perhaps you should consider expanding resources to this hospital and the real estate that it encompasses and provide the beds and resources for those suffering from opioid addiction and mental illness that cannot currently obtain care due to the lack of mental health care beds and staff.