



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE DAVID A. COUGHLIN, JR., *District 60*
Committee on Judiciary
Committee on Municipal Government

March 2, 2016

Dr. Nicole Alexander-Scott MD, MPH
Director, RI Department of Health
3 Capitol Hill-Suite 1
Providence, RI 02908

Dear Director Scott,

I am writing to you out of my deep concern regarding the proposed plans announced by Care New England and Memorial Hospital to close some of their most necessary services to the citizens of Pawtucket, such as their maternity ward and intensive care unit.

I am especially outraged at the proposed closing of the birthing center, which is a clear threat to the health of Pawtucket's hard working families and mothers who have relied on Memorial Hospital for generations. More than 400 children were born at Memorial Hospital last year.

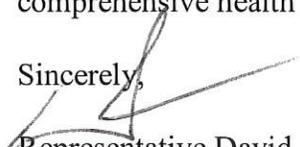
For over 100 years, Memorial Hospital has welcomed Pawtucket's newest residents into this world. To call this possible loss to the City of Pawtucket tragic is a gross understatement and I urge you to see through the financial coldness of this decision and consider the institutional and community value that the birthing center at Memorial Hospital represents to the city I am proud to represent at the State House.

Along with the loss of crucial health services to this community, the brutal layoffs threatening the loyal and dedicated employees of Memorial Hospital is equally unacceptable and troubling. Unfortunately in this day and age, health care has been reduced to a monetary bottom line, casting aside the needs of patients and the commitment and compassion of its employees and instead only focusing on dollar signs on spread sheets. This is a deeply disconcerting trend and I cannot stand idly by while such attacks to the public health of my community are threatened.

I call upon you and state regulators to review this proposal carefully, weighing all tangible and intangible factors before allowing this plan to go forward. Please keep in mind that your decision will not only affect bottom-line numbers in a company ledger, but more importantly, it will affect the very health of some and the livelihoods of others.

Memorial Hospital has long been part of the city's fabric and our people deserve the comprehensive health services that I urge you not to take away from them.

Sincerely,


Representative David A. Coughlin Jr.
District 60, Pawtucket