



Crain's Health Pulse

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Downstate Wants New Hospital

SUNY Downstate executives want to build a brand-new hospital to replace crumbling University Hospital, funded by the proceeds of selling Long Island College Hospital. The brazen scheme is highly speculative, given that it requires both state approval of LICH's closure as well as the state's blessing of a new hospital. The idea of building a new hospital in central Brooklyn is controversial on several fronts. The new hospital would be privatized, which would be opposed by the CSEA union. The executives of other Brooklyn facilities could challenge any use of state funding, arguing that their hospitals, too, must be rebuilt. And the proposal is tied to a pilot project, suggested in the executive state budget, that would allow for-profit investors to finance the new hospital. Meanwhile, SUNY Downstate's board meets today to discuss LICH's closure, followed by a public hearing. More information is [online here](#). Union members from NYSNA and 1199 SEIU, as well as community groups, plan to hold a rally at the hearing.