

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 16, 2008

Hon. David A. Paterson
Governor of New York
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
Attorney General of New York
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Hon. Richard F. Daines, M.D.
New York State Commissioner of Health
Corning Tower
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12237

Re: Organized Medical Staff of the Long Island
College Hospital

Gentlemen:

The Organized Medical Staff of the Long Island College Hospital ("Medical Staff") has brought to our attention major concerns regarding the management arrangement between Long Island College Hospital ("LICH") and Continuum Health Partners Inc. ("Continuum"). The Medical Staff is seeking to terminate the arrangement between LICH and Continuum. Upon termination of the LICH/Continuum relationship, the Medical Staff has indicated it intends to reconstitute the LICH Board to include community-based representatives and restore LICH's independence and autonomy as mandated by state law. With respect to ongoing operations, we have been informed that a well-qualified and experienced restructuring firm has been engaged to establish and implement a plan to rehabilitate LICH's financial and operational condition.


The Medical Staff maintains that the LICH/Continuum arrangement may not be in compliance with applicable New York State law and regulations, and may also be in violation of Federal Law. Additionally, we have been informed that as a result of Continuum's management of LICH, the financial condition of LICH has steadily deteriorated to the point of near insolvency. Given that LICH is a vital institution providing necessary and critical clinical care services, its closure would have a major adverse impact on the Brooklyn community in which it is situated. Additionally, the closure of LICH would result in the loss of thousands of community-based jobs, magnifying the negative impact of the loss.

We understand a complaint was filed with the New York State Attorney General's Office and New York State Commissioner of Health on or about January 4, 2008. A copy of the complaint is attached for your reference. The complaint details the concerns of the Medical Staff regarding the relationship between LICH and Continuum, and specifies allegations of financial and operational mismanagement by Continuum. We further understand that the Attorney General and the Department of Health have initiated investigations in response to the complaint. Given the dire and rapidly deteriorating financial condition of LICH, we urge you to act expeditiously in order to ensure that LICH can be salvaged and avoid the closure or significant downsizing of this critical community-based resource.

Sincerely,



Hon. Nydia Velázquez



Hon. Edolphus Towns



Hon. Yvette Clarke