



MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

April 15, 2020

Secretary Marylou Sudders, MSW, ACSW
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
COVID-19 Command Center
One Ashburton Place, 11th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Subject: Holy Family Haverhill ICU Closure

Dear Secretary Sudders:

Thank you for everything you are doing to lead us through this crisis.

As you are aware, Steward plans to close their Intensive Care Unit in Haverhill without the 90-day notice to the state or to local authorities and without their submission of required plans and without submitting to public hearings that are required under 105 CMR 130.122 as prerequisite to any such closure.

We write to you urgently to ask that your office issue direction to Steward Holy Family Hospital and ensure that several questions have been responded to in writing and in coordination with local elected leaders. Among these questions are:

- If the purpose is to co-locate COVID-19 patients in one ICU, will you also send non-infected patients to a consolidated ICU on the Methuen Campus? If so, why?
- What assurances can you provide that sufficient ER physicians will be available in Haverhill to stabilize patients before transfer to the Methuen campus?
- What assurances can you provide that the Haverhill ICU will reopen immediately following the COVID-19 crisis?
- What facilities in Methuen make this consolidation of ICU patients preferable to continuing to provide ICU facilities in Haverhill?
- Will any COVID-19 patients remain hospitalized at the Haverhill Campus? If so, what is the explanation for this decision?

You have worked tirelessly to help Massachusetts reach a target number of ICU beds needed to meet the surge, and northeastern Massachusetts in particular is lacking in ICU facilities to address this crisis. Therefore, we ask that you take immediate action to evaluate Steward's plans.

With great appreciation for the work that you are doing in this crisis,

Sincerely,

Linda Dean Campbell
State Representative, 15th Essex District
Chair, Joint Committee on Veterans and
Federal Affairs

Frank A. Moran
State Representative, 17th Essex District
Chair, House Committee on Personnel and
Administration

Andy X. Vargas
State Representative, 3rd Essex District

Leonard Mirra
State Representative, 2nd Essex District

CC: The Honorable Robert A. DeLeo, Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives
The Honorable Diana DiZoglio, State Senator, First Essex District
The Honorable Denise C. Garlick, Vice Chair of the House Committee on Ways and
Means, House COVID-19 Working Group
The Honorable James J. Fiorentini, Mayor of the City of Haverhill
The Honorable Neil Perry, Mayor of the City of Methuen
Mr. Craig Jesiolowski, President of Holy Family Hospital
Ms. Whitney Ferguson, Deputy Chief of Staff to Speaker Robert A. DeLeo
Mr. Robert McLaughlin, Legislative Affairs, COVID-19 Response Command Center