



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

SENATOR DIANA DiZOGLIO

First Essex District

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 416B
BOSTON, MA 02133-1053

Chair
JOINT COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AND SMALL BUSINESS

April 14, 2020

Secretary Marylou Sudders, MSW, ACSW
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
COVID-19 Command Center

Dear Secretary Sudders,

I write to you urgently to ask that your office issue direction to Steward Holy Family Hospital Haverhill to immediately reopen their ICUs - services they have closed without the 90-day notice to the state or to local authorities, without their submission of required plans and without submitting to public hearings which are required under 105 CMR 130.122 as prerequisite to any such closure.

You have worked tirelessly to help Massachusetts reach a target number of ICU beds needed to meet the surge. It is discouraging that, at the same time, Steward Health Care is taking ICU beds offline in the midst of a severe pandemic.

I am appreciative of the reality that you and your staff are running straight out in your response to this crisis. In that context it would be unreasonable to expect that every hospital regulation be subject to enforcement action. But this case is quite the opposite - the closure of these two ICUs in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis is of absolutely emergent concern to the people of my district exactly because of the pandemic.

I also urge you to ask for Attorney General Healey's aid in the enforcement of 105 CMR 130.122.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter and for all that you are doing to help the people of Massachusetts during this emergency.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diana DiZoglio".

Diana DiZoglio
State Senator
1st Essex District