

Dear Concerned Citizen,
Make no mistake about it, this issue
is **NOT** about the quality of your care.
This is **NOT** about assuring you
have timely access to appropriate
surgical intervention in an emergency!
This **IS** about profits and paying for expansion
of facilities and CEO wages. This **IS** about
bigger facilities, traffic congestion, longer waits
in ER's and excuses when a loved one dies
because trauma care was delayed.



223 North Van Dien Avenue
Ridgewood, NJ 07450-2736

May 2009

Dear Concerned Citizen,

I am writing to ask you to assist me in what I believe is the most important issue northern New Jersey's healthcare system faces today.


I am sure that you are aware of Hackensack University Medical Center's plan to open a for-profit, 128-bed hospital on the site of the bankrupt Pascack Valley Hospital. If this plan is allowed to go forward, the effect on remaining hospitals will be devastating. One need only look to a recent report by Governor Corzine's Healthcare Commission to know that New Jersey has too many hospitals and too many hospital beds. **There are five hospitals within a 12-mile radius of the bankrupt Pascack Valley Hospital and each of those hospitals has ample capacity to provide care. Each night there are approximately 300 hospital beds available to the residents of Bergen County. In addition, there are two hospitals just north of the New York border.** For almost two years, Valley, Englewood Hospital and Medical Center and the remaining Bergen County hospitals have provided excellent care for the people of the Pascack Valley community. A new hospital will negatively impact the operational effectiveness, stability and quality of our region's hospitals.

To ensure the future of Bergen County's healthcare system, we believe Hackensack's application to re-open a hospital in Westwood should be denied. **Please join us by attending the State Health Planning Board's Public Meeting on this issue on Monday, June 8 from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Westwood Regional Junior/Senior High School, 701 Ridgewood Road in Washington Township. I also encourage you to prepare a brief statement to read at the meeting. Transportation to the meeting will be provided from The Valley Hospital, with buses leaving at 3 p.m.*** In addition to attending the meeting, please take a moment to read the enclosed letter of opposition to the plan and sign and mail it to the Department of Health in the enclosed postage-paid envelope.

We need your support to ensure that Valley and all Bergen County hospitals remain healthy and strong to serve the community for years to come. If you have any questions, please visit www.KeepOurHospitalsHealthy.org to learn more.

To ensure the continued health of your hospital, we need your help. Please sign and mail the enclosed letter today, and join us at the meeting on June 8.

Sincerely,


Audrey Meyers
President and CEO

Enclosures

*Please RSVP to 201-291-6330 to ensure a space at the meeting and on the bus.

The enclosure was a letter for recipients to send in support of the opposition.