



CONNECTICUT STATE CONFERENCE OF NAACP BRANCHES

Officers:

PRESIDENT
Scot X. Esdaile

1ST VICE PRESIDENT
Ronald P. Davis

2ND VICE PRESIDENT
Jack Bryant

3RD VICE PRESIDENT
Doris Dumas

TREASURER
Rosa Browne

ASSISTANT TREASURER
Jacqueline D. Owens

SECRETARY
Virginia L. Monteiro

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Maxien Robinson

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Joan H. Gibson

May 18, 2016

Perry Zinn Rowthorn
Deputy Attorney General
State of Connecticut
55 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Deputy Attorney General Rowthorn:

The Health Committee of the CT State Conference of the NAACP Branches is writing as a follow up to our testimony on May 3rd, 2016 pertaining to the proposed acquisition of Waterbury Hospital a non for profit community hospital to Prospect Medical Holding a for profit medical entity.

As related in our testimony and reaffirmed by others testifying that day, we are further resolved that this conversion is not only, not in the best interest of a significant vulnerable populations in the Greater Waterbury community, but further establishes the worst of precedents for hospital conversion in our fragile state.

Unlike other previous conversions, this acquisition would directly impact and minimize health care access in this fragile community where roughly 60 % of children live below 200% of the poverty level, with a state average of roughly 25%. Further this fragile community has an unemployment rate nearing 13% with many of its citizens in dire need of a community hospital that maintains a strong community benefit program.

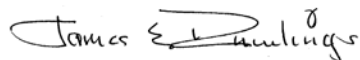
In our testimony, the CT State Conference of the NAACP Branches spoke of our concerns broadly speaking as the voice of those not invited to the table. We also have grave concerns as to why other local stakeholders were disinvented to this discussion as expressed by the CEO of Prospect Medical Holding, Mr. Riordan. We believe that this alone is grounds for not approving this acquisition, since the Attorney General Office represents all citizens of this state.

The state Conference of NAACP Branches met with Mr. Riordan and a representative of Waterbury Hospital a few days prior to the hearing. We spoke of the merits of maintaining community benefits and found a great deal of common ground on this critical health care access issue. Mr. Riordan agreed to meet with the Health Committee representatives after the hearing to further these discussions.

We have not heard from either Prospect Medical Holdings or Mr. Riordan directly and consider this a significant breach of trust with the largest civil right organization nationally and in the State of CT with a strong history of fighting for health equity.

Finally, we consider health equity and health care access in the same domain as we do any other civil right injustice. We have fought for and partnered with the legislative leadership of our state and strongly request that our Office of the Attorney General join us in advocating for those most vulnerable in this state, and in particular the Waterbury community, as it relates to the social justice in the State of Connecticut.

Sincerely,



James E. Rawlings, MPH
Health Chair
CT State Conference of the NAACP Branches



Scot X Esdaile
President
CT State Conference of the NAACP Branches