



Ohio Senate

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State Senator
Eric H. Kearney
9th District

October 21, 2009

The Honorable Richard Cordray
Ohio Attorney General
30 E. Broad St., 17th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Attorney General Cordray:

I write regarding the Jewish Foundation's sale of the Jewish Hospital to Mercy Health Partners. Many of the people and institutions impacted by such a sale are in my Senate District. For the benefit of the Cincinnati community, a pause is needed for the Cincinnati community to fully evaluate the sales impact upon health care in Cincinnati.

It is my understanding that the Jewish Foundation and Mercy Health Partners plan to complete this transaction by the end of this calendar year. I do not dispute the Jewish Foundation's right to sell its hospital to another entity, but I do believe that a rushed sale has the potential to negatively affect the other partners in the Health Alliance, of which the Jewish Hospital is a member. Adequate time is needed to properly evaluate the full impact on the Health Alliance, University Hospital and the University of Cincinnati. Providing these institutions the opportunity to identify alternative affiliations or partnerships will enable them to secure their own futures and thereby protect the integrity of the entire Cincinnati-area healthcare community.

Simply put, a hasty sale could potentially impact the University of Cincinnati and University Hospital in a negative way and put these two critically important institutions at risk. I am particularly concerned about the adverse impact on University Hospital's ability to conduct its mission of serving as Cincinnati's primary safety net hospital.

I appreciate your attention to this matter. It is my hope that a mutually beneficial solution can be reached. Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Eric H. Kearney