

Jones wants delay in Jewish Hospital sale

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State Sen. Shannon Jones has joined the ranks of government and community leaders calling for a delay in the sale of **Jewish Hospital**.

In a letter, Jones, who represents the 7th District, asked Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray to “assess the impact such a sale may have on University Hospital and the **University of Cincinnati College of Medicine**, as well as the other institutions in the Health Alliance.”

Jones said he had no opinion in whether the sale itself should be completed.

The Health Alliance, which was once Greater Cincinnati’s largest hospital system, is likely to dissolve if a proposed sale of Jewish Hospital, which is one of its members, is completed.

State Sen. Eric Kearney recently wrote a letter to the attorney general suggesting that “a pause is needed” in the proposed sale of Jewish.

And Christopher Smitherman, president of the **Cincinnati NAACP**, wrote a letter asking the attorney general to “disallow any breakup of the Health Alliance until a clear plan is presented to this community on how to prevent the negative consequences of such an organizational split and a comprehensive plan that clearly shows safety-net service sustainability in this community and region.”

Cincinnati City Council is holding public hearings on the issue.

The Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati is trying to take hospital out of the Health Alliance and sell it to **Mercy Health Partners** for \$180 million. The pending deal was first announced in July.

In addition to Jewish, the Health Alliance consists of University Hospital, Fort Hamilton Hospital, the Drake Center and West Chester Medical Center.

University of Cincinnati leaders have complained that the profitability that’s made Jewish an attractive acquisition target effectively came through subsidies by University Hospital. Now the UC board accuses the Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati of wanting to take the money and run.

Any destabilization of University Hospital, the board claims, could lead to cuts of services, resident training, education and research.

Jewish Hospital has said in a statement: “We and our partners at Mercy are working hard to find a viable, regional response to the regional issues of indigent care and medical

education. But we all must acknowledge that the Health Alliance is a failed business model and has been since the Christ Hospital left it. Rather than look backward, we need to start solving these issues right now.”