

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
Office of Legal and Regulatory Affairs
Market and Warren Streets
P.O. Box 360
Trenton, NJ 08625-0360

Dear Commissioner O'Dowd:

I urge you to **oppose** Hackensack University Medical Center's plan to open a hospital in Westwood.

New Jersey hospitals are struggling. Since 1992, 21 New Jersey hospitals have closed. To open a hospital goes against the findings of a recent state report that found that New Jersey has too many hospitals and too many hospital beds.

There is ample capacity in all Bergen County hospitals for all patients who require care. There are five full-service hospitals within a 12-mile radius. On any given day, there are at least 300 beds available to the residents of Bergen County.

It is important to note that since Pascack Valley Hospital went bankrupt, no residents from the Pascack Valley area have gone without care. In fact, the healthcare needs of all Pascack Valley residents have been very well met by other Bergen County hospitals.

This issue is not about one hospital. This issue is about ensuring that quality healthcare is available to all residents.

Please oppose HUMC's plan. It will have a devastating impact on all area hospitals. Please help keep **all** Bergen County hospitals strong, healthy, and viable.

Thank you.

Name _____

Address _____