



January 25, 2021

Committee Chair Fischer and Behavioral Health Committee Members:

Thank you for taking this opportunity to explore the issues related to a lack of psychiatric beds in our state. It seems clear that the ultimate loss of the psychiatric beds from St. Josephs is a certainty, and it is imperative that actions be taken to preserve the possibility of these beds being opened in another facility. We believe that this is especially important as many of these beds have been used to deliver services to underserved populations within our state who face dwindling access to critical healthcare resources. We urge the committee to act to ensure that these beds are not “banked” by the Fairview system, to be re-used to meet some other more lucrative purpose. Rather, we ask that these beds be held in the hopes that another facility will make the commitment to open more psychiatric beds. At the same time, we urge you to consider increasing the Medical Assistance reimbursement rate for psychiatric beds so that other facilities can take on the challenge of expanding psychiatric beds.

Sincerely,

Jordan Robinson, PhD, LP, ABPP
President
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