



Stop the Transition of SUNY Downstate to Kings County Hospital!

Dear Legislator:

As a constituent and/or a state employee represented by the Public Employees Federation (PEF), I am extremely concerned that Governor Hochul has proposed to transition the services from SUNY Downstate Medical Center, located in Brooklyn to Kings County Hospital. This ill-conceived proposal must be rectified as it is a threat to the long-term viability of our public health care system and the underserved community it represents.

For over a decade prior to COVID-19, the funding for SUNY's three hospitals (Upstate in Syracuse, Downstate in Brooklyn and Stony Brook) was on the decline. These facilities were forced to make cuts -- even as demand for their services, provided to anyone requiring medical attention, regardless of health insurance -- was on the rise. This was especially true at Downstate, which was designated a "COVID-only" facility during the height of the pandemic for almost a year.

The State of New York has a moral obligation to continue to support Downstate, not transition it to another facility. While it is true that there are many other hospitals, our public hospitals are unique as they both help train new doctors and other medical professionals, while serving all members of the community, regardless of ability to pay. This facility needs to be properly funded, not shuttered.

As my elected representative, I kindly ask that you work with the leadership in your house to begin to restore the funding needed to maintain Downstate so it can remain a leader in health care, as it has been for almost 175 years. This facility, which is one of the largest employers in the area and produces more diverse doctors and nurses than just about any hospital in the nation, must continue with its proud tradition of serving the community. Thank you for your time, attention, and consideration of this very important issue.

Sincerely,
