

March 23, 2009

Dear Representative:

I recently underwent a surgical procedure at TOPS Surgical Hospital. This hospital is managed and owned by physicians. I received wonderful care at the hospital from the doctors, nurses, and other support staff. The nurses were available and did not have so many patients so that I could not be well cared for.

Physicians who own a hospital are very much interested in how their patients are treated. They are not only interested in making money from the hospital, but their reputations depend on good medical outcomes. By being owners in a hospital, they help keep the nurse-to-patient ratio low, the patients are well taken care of, and the physicians are very involved in how medical care is given.

I am writing to ask you to oppose any legislation that will prevent physicians from owning and operating their own hospitals. Such legislation would reduce my right to choose a hospital that provides high-quality care, lower costs, and lower infection rate.

If this physician hospital did not exist, I would be forced into a large general hospital where the nurse-to-patient ratio is higher, the infection rate is higher, and things simply take longer to get accomplished.

Legislation that prevents physicians from owning hospitals is bad for healthcare, bad for Medicare beneficiaries, and bad for me. I would ask that you defeat any type of legislation that would prevent physicians from owning and operating hospitals.

Yours sincerely,

APK/MS#150