



HR0352

LRB097 11878 RPM 55308 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Cook County Board created the Cook County
3 Health & Hospitals System (CCHHS) Board of Directors in 2008,
4 and the ordinance creating that board originally provided that
5 the ordinance would be repealed in 2011; and

6 WHEREAS, The Cook County Board voted June 1, 2010 to
7 eliminate the sunset clause in the ordinance that established
8 the independent Cook County Health & Hospitals System Board of
9 Directors, so that it is now a permanent oversight authority;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The CCHHS oversees healthcare operations and
12 policy implementation for the health system of Cook County,
13 establishes priorities for the health care delivery system, and
14 is intended to operate so as to improve the efficiency and
15 delivery of health care to the residents of Cook County; and

16 WHEREAS, The CCHHS Board of Directors issued the *Vision*
17 *2015 Strategic Direction* (July 2010) that includes a plan to
18 discontinue inpatient, emergency, and rehabilitation services
19 at the south suburban Oak Forest Hospital; and

20 WHEREAS, Many patients, caregivers, and community members
21 have voiced opposition to the plan to discontinue Oak Forest

1 Hospital; opponents claim that these cuts in service severely
2 reduce the accessibility and affordability of health care for
3 many uninsured Chicagoland residents, that this plan would send
4 patients to other health facilities in the County that do not
5 have the capacity to serve these additional patients, and that
6 the plan poses a significant burden to many area residents who
7 would have longer travel time and scheduling problems in their
8 use of more distant and crowded facilities; and

9 WHEREAS, The CCHHS Board of Directors has already taken
10 steps that will jeopardize the ability of Oak Forest Hospital
11 to provide essential health services in the community without
12 adequate preparation and assurance that area residents will be
13 able to obtain accessible and affordable care; and

14 WHEREAS, The Illinois Health Facilities and Services
15 Review Board has recommended denial of the application to
16 discontinue the current operation of Oak Forest Hospital,
17 finding that (1) the proposed closure of Oak Forest Hospital
18 will increase the number of intensive care and long-term care
19 beds needed in the planning area; (2) while the hospitals in
20 the planning area have stated they will accommodate the
21 inpatient workload of Oak Forest Hospital, there has been no
22 indication by hospitals in the planning area assuming the
23 outpatient workload of Oak Forest Hospital and concerns still
24 remain of a capacity crunch in the area upon the closure of Oak

1 Forest Hospital; (3) while the County has provided a 5-year
2 strategic plan for Oak Forest Hospital and has stated that an
3 immediate care facility will replace the emergency department
4 effective June 1, 2011 and outpatient specialty services will
5 be provided on the campus, funding is only assured for the
6 first year, FY 2011; (4) information and data to document the
7 need to discontinue the facility has been provided by the
8 County, however the proposed discontinuation will increase the
9 number of ICU and long-term care beds in the planning areas and
10 it is also unclear as to how the residents of the planning area
11 will have access to care should the Regional Outpatient Center
12 not be funded by the County; and (5) given the large number of
13 safety net patients Oak Forest Hospital provides service for,
14 it does appear that the proposed discontinuation will have an
15 adverse impact on the access to care in the service area; and

16 WHEREAS, The recommendation of the CCHHS Board of Directors
17 contravenes the critical health interests of the residents of
18 the Chicagoland Area, and this means there is substantial
19 reason to believe that it has not shown sufficient expertise
20 and concern in carrying out its mission, especially in
21 preserving essential health services in underserved areas of
22 the City of Chicago; therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
24 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we recommend that the Cook County Board restore the repeal date
2 of the county ordinance that created the CCHHS Board of
3 Directors; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Cook County Board secure funding for the
5 continued operation of Oak Forest Hospital to the capacity that
6 shall provide the essential health services for the community
7 that depends on it for affordable, accessible medical care; and
8 be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Attorney General review the status of
10 Oak Forest hospital in terms of compliance with the Illinois
11 Health Facilities Planning Act given the denial of the
12 application to discontinue Oak Forest Hospital by the Illinois
13 Health Facilities and Services Review Board; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
15 provided to the President and each member of the Cook County
16 Board.