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MAJORITY POLICY CHAIRMAN  
67<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
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February 9, 2021

Via Email and Regular Mail

Jeff Belt, Chairman of the Board of Directors  
Upper Allegheny Health System  
515 Main Street  
Olean, NY 14760

Dear Chairman Belt:

The announcement last month by Upper Allegheny Health System to reduce health care services at Bradford Regional Medical Center was a shock to many residents of McKean County. County residents immediately began reaching out to my office to express genuine concern and ask how they can get involved to preserve health care services in our area.

In addition to informing residents of our conversations, I joined with the McKean County Commissioners and launched a petition for residents to sign to further express their concerns and have their individual voices heard regarding the future of health care in our community.

The response was overwhelming, with 4,631 signatures being submitted as of today. Residents were given the opportunity to sign electronically or in person. I have attached the petitions and submit them for your review.

I wish you were able to hear the stories and sentiments from local residents. People are not speaking out because of nostalgia. People are not speaking out because of parochial views. People are speaking out because they are genuinely concerned about your proposal and how it will affect health care services for themselves and their families, friends and neighbors.

Local residents understand that the proposed changes at BRMC disproportionately affect people who are poor or have limited means of transportation. Quite frankly, if one of your board members or I need health care services, we have the means to get ourselves to where we need to be to access services. After April 1<sup>st</sup>, that cannot be said for all residents of McKean County.

I have always been a strong supporter of our local hospitals and have focused much of my time in the state legislature fighting for rural health care. I represent 65,000 residents of Northern Pennsylvania who are afraid for the future of health care access in our region. After more than a decade of decline at BRMC, many residents are rightfully questioning the commitment of Upper Allegheny Health System to our community.

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Please consider the voices of the people who signed this petition. I welcome the opportunity to further discuss with you.

Sincerely,



Martin Causer  
State Representative  
67<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

MTC/

Cc: VIA EMAIL:

Mr. David Ferguson  
Ms. Jeannine Schoenecker  
Ms. Julie Marasco  
Ms. Lisa Fiorentino, RN, PhD.  
Dr. Anil Pradhan  
Mr. Paul Ridley  
Dr. Mohammed Javed  
Mr. Jeff Zewe  
McKean County Commissioners