

4576072
Health

Brenda Marks Fuller
387 Robinwood Road
Waterbury, CT 06708

August 25, 2013

Attorney General
George Jepsen
55 Elm St.
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Mr. Jepsen,

As an employee of Waterbury Hospital and a Waterbury taxpayer, I am writing in support of the proposed merger between Waterbury Hospital and Vanguard, a for-profit healthcare company based in Tennessee, with the understanding that the new entity will save jobs on the local level. It is also my understanding that the proposed merger will upgrade healthcare in this city, which has a large indigent and low-income population.

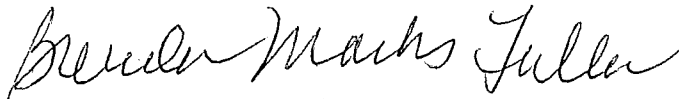
Waterbury's middle class is struggling. Numerous homes in my neighborhood stand empty and are in foreclosure. Many nurses, aides and other hospital workers live and pay taxes in this city. Waterbury Hospital provides a decent income for middle-class wage earners who can earn from \$15 and up an hour. These jobs provide for people who own homes, spend money in the city at restaurants and stores, and pay taxes. If Waterbury loses its middle-class base, along with middle-class jobs such as the ones the hospital offers, the city will ultimately suffer.

If I lose my job, I will likely lose my house. That will have a domino impact on local banks where I do business, stores where I shop and taxes, which I would no longer be able to pay. I live in this city mainly because of my job. If I lose my job, I will leave Waterbury and walk away, just another middle-class wage earner who would no longer be able to afford to live here.

Like the middle class, hospitals across the country are under tremendous financial stress. Vanguard is promising to pump needed money into our healthcare system. I trust that whatever entity ends up running Waterbury Hospital, it will maintain a mission of providing quality and affordable healthcare for those who are most vulnerable, as well as keeping jobs for middle-class residents.

Thanks for the opportunity to write.

Sincerely,



Brenda Marks Fuller