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October 17, 2012

The Honorable Steve Beshear
Governor, Commonwealth of Kentucky
and

The Honorable Jack Conway
Attorney General, Commonwealth of Kentucky
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Re: Approval of new University of Louisville partnership contracts.

Dear Sirs.

Ten months ago I wrote to your offices urging you not to participate in a rushed approval of the acquisition of University of Louisville Hospital by Catholic Health Initiatives when no details of the contracts had been made available to the public, and at a time when even the status of University Hospital as a public entity was being contested. When as a result of a court order some details became public, overwhelming opposition caused the deal to fail. It need not have happened in that way, but the process is repeating itself.

Today I find myself writing again for exactly the same reasons when even fewer details of the impending new deal are available, and when the status of University Hospital remains undetermined in the courts. I ask you again not to yield to pressure for rapid approval of a game-changing reorientation so critical to the public interest, but lacking any community input or evaluation whatsoever.

I have enclosed a number of criteria that I suggest can form a starting point for public evaluation. These summarize more detailed discussions of University Hospital affairs published this past year in the pages of the KHPI Health Policy Blog. The University of Louisville has lost much credibility in our community because of its secrecy and its scandals, including those related to medical care of the disadvantaged. The need for transparency and accountability is even greater than ever.

There are many like myself who are willing to help both the community and University Hospital itself in such an evaluation.

Respectfully,

Peter Hasselbacher, MD
President, KHPI

c.c.
Adam Edelen, Auditor of Public Accounts
Greg Fischer, Mayor of Louisville