

Suspension



March 23, 2017

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street - 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

Dear Members of the Erie County Legislature:

As members of the Board of Directors of the Great Lakes Health System, the ongoing collaboration between Kaleida Health, the University at Buffalo and Erie County Medical Center, we write to you regarding Erie County Medical Center.

Western New York's busiest Emergency Department is found at ECMC, which is our area's only designated Level 1 Adult Trauma Center, including the region's only Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program. The hospital's need for expanding the Trauma Center/Emergency Department is critical to meet current and future demands for emergency care of the residents of the eight counties of Western New York. ECMC's current Emergency Department was built in 1978 (and slightly upgraded in the 1990s) for 45,000 visits and now cares for close to 70,000 Western New Yorkers, which has created issues such as extended wait times and lack of privacy for patients. Most importantly, it will maintain and strengthen the clinical capabilities of the nationally recognized Trauma and Emergency Team who save lives every day. Finally, this project will improve our disaster preparedness saving lives in the event of mass causality.

As a public benefit corporation, ECMC continues to demonstrate a strong fiscal position, closing 2016 with a \$2.1 million operating surplus on its total \$593 million in operating revenues, which represents a \$39.9 million or a 7.2% increase in operating revenues from 2015 and a \$1.2 million or 133% increase in operating surplus. And that strong financial position continues through the first two months of 2017 with the hospital reporting that it is through February \$1.5 million ahead of the first two months of 2016.

We stand united in our support of ECMC's leadership and the great care provided to thousands of Western New Yorkers. ECMC is a regional asset and important to the collaboration of Great Lakes Health. ECMC has never been stronger financially or clinically, seeing the highest volumes and receiving the highest quality scores in its history. You have an opportunity to strengthen our healthcare partner even further, and enable the continued improvement in the quality of care in our community.

We urge you to support ECMC and thank you for considering the hospital's pivotal importance in providing high quality care our families and the residents of Western New York.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. D. Gioia".

Robert D. Gioia
Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jody L. Lomeo".

Jody L. Lomeo
President and CEO