

House Concurrent Resolution No. 1

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE HANNEGAN.

1230H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

1 **WHEREAS**, SSM Health currently operates a hospital in St. Charles County, St. Joseph
2 Hospital, which is designated by the Missouri department of health and senior services as a level
3 II trauma center; and

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5 **WHEREAS**, St. Charles County has a population of over three hundred ninety thousand
6 people and has no level I trauma center and no other level II trauma center; and

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8 **WHEREAS**, in September 2020, SSM Health announced a decision to terminate its
9 trauma services at St. Joseph Hospital in St. Charles County, placing the health and safety of the
10 residents of St. Charles County and the nearby counties of Lincoln and Warren at greater risk due
11 to the longer transportation times for trauma patients that will result from such termination; and

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13 **WHEREAS**, an often-congested section of highway and the Missouri River separate the
14 residents of the counties of St. Charles, Lincoln, and Warren from the next nearest level II trauma
15 center, which will add to the transportation times for patients in critical need of the lifesaving
16 services these centers provide; and

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18 **WHEREAS**, promises were made to the City and County of St. Charles of major
19 investment and expansion of the existing St. Joseph Hospital by SSM Health in exchange for
20 public funding of major road and aesthetic improvements and the assistance of the local
21 government in relocating and securing a site for a United States Post Office to make room for
22 such expansion and improvements; and

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24 **WHEREAS**, these promises were not kept by SSM Health, which now claims it cannot
25 afford to maintain its trauma services for the residents of St. Charles County and the surrounding
26 counties even while it has expended hundreds of millions of dollars in other expansions and has
27 failed to provide evidence that the system as a whole is unable to maintain the trauma services
28 at St. Joseph Hospital; and

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30 **WHEREAS**, the removal of trauma services and the termination of other services appear
31 to be the first steps towards the ultimate closure of St. Joseph Hospital, at a time when Missouri
32 appears to have insufficient hospital capacity to handle the current pandemic, further reducing
33 the state's ability to respond to any future public health crisis; and

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35 **WHEREAS**, SSM Health voluntarily sought the designation of level II trauma center for
36 St. Joseph Hospital and received the designation to become part of the state's network of trauma-
37 receiving hospitals:

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39 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
40 Representatives of the One Hundred First General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
41 concurring therein, hereby urge SSM Health to reconsider its decision to terminate trauma
42 services at St. Joseph Hospital in St. Charles County and seek input from the general public and
43 local city and county governments, fire districts, fire departments, ambulance districts, and law
44 enforcement agencies before moving forward with its decision; and

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46 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
47 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Laura
48 Kaiser, the President/Chief Executive Officer of SSM Health.

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