



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
342 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3814
(202) 225-2065

May 13, 2024

The Honorable Lina M. Khan
Chair
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20580

Dear Chair Khan:

I write regarding the proposed integration and affiliation of Washington Health Care Services (WHS) and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC). As the representative of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I reaffirm my support for UPMC's proposed affiliation and investment in WHS, which is critical to the future health of my constituents and our regional economy.

In January 2024, I wrote to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) regarding the massive operating deficits of WHS and other Pennsylvania rural hospitals. These financial hardships are exacerbated by low occupancy rates, increasing healthcare inflation and insurance costs, and reduced reimbursements from state and federal healthcare programs. Without structural change and new investment from an outside entity, WHS is unable to maintain critical services for my constituents. Without this proposed affiliation, WHS would likely face closure in the near future.

Additionally, I applaud the UPMC-WHS integration's commitment to continuing critical healthcare services, including cardiac surgery, internal medicine, surgery, and other clinical service lines. The new affiliation would maintain Washington Hospital as an inpatient acute care general hospital that includes core services like emergency care, diagnostic, ambulatory, and primary care. Further, the affiliation will honor the current collective bargaining agreement and existing contracts with payors.

As the FTC reviews this acquisition, I urge swift approval to support this critical investment in southwestern Pennsylvania, which protects the continuation of healthcare services for thousands of my constituents. It is my understanding that WHS and UPMC have complied with the FTC's data requests, including turning over 5 million pages of documents directly to the FTC. In addition to the document and data collection efforts, senior leadership from WHS and UPMC cooperated with several investigative hearings, multiple public meetings, and stakeholder engagement sessions.

Thank you again for the opportunity to weigh in on this important issue impacting my constituents. Should you have any questions or follow-up, please do not hesitate to contact Ashley Menzler in my office at Ashley.Menzler@mail.house.gov or (202) 225-2065.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Guy Reschenthaler', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress