

From: [OLC-Cooperative Agreement \(VDH\)](#)
To: [West, Catherine \(VDH\)](#)
Subject: FW: New submission from Public Comment
Date: Friday, October 06, 2017 1:14:23 PM

From: olc-cooperativeagreement@vdh.virginia.gov [mailto:olc-cooperativeagreement@vdh.virginia.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 7:52 PM
To: OLC-Cooperative Agreement (VDH) <OLC-CooperativeAgreement@vdh.virginia.gov>
Subject: New submission from Public Comment

Name (optional)

Megan Oliver

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Please choose the choice that applies:

General comment regarding the cooperative agreement

Comment

This is the first place I have found to express my concerns on the proposed Wellmont/MSHA merger and to speak on behalf of my patients that also have concerns. I cannot express enough how much myself, my co-workers, and my patients do not want this merger approved. Competition in any form of business keeps prices lower for patients/customers, staff to thrive to be better than the competition, and it's what keeps us (employees) to get the customer coming back to our facilities. I have a difficult time believing the CEOs, administration, etc. that want to convince the public how great a merger would be when they are not the ones that have to worry themselves with job security, monopolies, or paying higher medical bills. So, why wouldn't they think this is a great idea when they do the have to worry about any of that? It's more money in their pockets. My concerns as a Wellmont employee; what happens to my job role, PCT? With a merge and hospitals being repurposed will there be too many techs and result in job cuts? What happens to my pay? Where do I go if I no longer wanted to work for "Ballad" but still wanted to work in a hospital setting? I have nowhere to go, unless I move. New policies will be set, but what if I don't agree? My concerns as a patient; I have personally spent my life trying to avoid MSHA, with a merger it would be as if I have no choice. I will have no other choice in mine or my family's health care. That scares me, to be honest.

As far as increase in prices, which there will be, aren't prices high enough? Don't people struggle enough? Healthcare is expensive, even if it is provided by your employer. Some people simply can't afford for prices to be any higher. I sincerely hope and pray that Virginia does not approve the merger and looks out for the best interest of employees and patients.

Sincerely,

An employee, patient, and concerned citizen.