



MICHAEL A. MONTESANO  
Assemblyman 15<sup>th</sup> District  
Nassau County

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

ASSISTANT MINORITY WHIP  
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Committee on Oversight, Analysis  
& Investigation

COMMITTEES  
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August 26, 2013

U.S. Federal Trade Commission  
600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20580  
Bureau of Competition  
Healthcare Services

Dear Sir or Madam,

I represent the 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly District in Nassau County, NY and a large part of my district is serviced by North Shore Long Island Jewish (**North Shore LIJ**) at **Glen Cove Hospital**.

Most recently, North Shore LIJ announced that they will be eliminating **all** of the beds at Glen Cove Hospital, approximately 255 beds, as well as eliminating many services including but not limited to psychiatric care, orthopedic care, the brain trauma rehabilitation unit as well as moving all non-ambulatory surgery to other hospitals. Essentially, Glen Cove Hospital will only be used for Emergency and Ambulatory Care services. In doing so, approximately **1200 people will lose jobs** and the approximate **50,000 plus community members** the hospital services will have to travel long distances for inpatient and rehabilitative care. Furthermore, many of our local nursing home and assisted living population will be without services. In addition to this devastation, we are anticipating the closing of a Glen Cove dialysis center, operated by Winthrop University Hospital, due to the loss of inpatient beds. This facility, located about a mile from the hospital, currently serves 22 patients 3 times per week. As a result, these patients will have to travel approximately 45 minutes to the nearest dialysis center which, among other things, will increase transportation costs.

It is clear that to run an Emergency Department without the ability to admit patients is unworkable on so many levels, especially with regard to the accessibility to specialists and expeditious care in emergency situations. If physicians do not have the ability to admit patients, they will obviously be forced to seek other hospitals that can care for their in-house patients. It won't be long before surrounding communities figure out that there is no reason to go to Glen Cove Hospital if a cardiologist, orthopedist, general surgeon, etc. will not be available to see them for several hours and patients would need to be transported to another facility anyway. This will ultimately result in the complete closing of Glen Cove Hospital!

Glen Cove Hospital, with a daily patient census of over 160, is profitable and repeatedly scores at the top of the customer surveys. Last year, the Hospital earned over \$600,000. North Shore LIJ's decision to decertify their inpatient beds has nothing to do with improvement of quality of care and almost nothing to do with the possible financial implications of the Affordable Care Act. Glen Cove Hospital is being used as a Sacrificial Lamb to cover losses being incurred at its other less profitable facilities.

The North Shore LIJ Health Care System was established in 1997 via a merger between the North Shore Hospital System and the Long Island Jewish Medical Center. Since then, North Shore LIJ has acquired approximately 400 medical practices and 16 hospitals located in Staten Island; Manhattan; Queens; and Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Nine of these hospitals are in Nassau County alone. The only independent hospitals remaining in Nassau County are St. Francis Hospital and Mercy Medical Center, which are both operated by the Diocese of Rockville Center; Winthrop University Hospital, which is private; South Nassau Communities Hospital in Oceanside; Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow and Long Beach Hospital, which is currently closed due to Superstorm Sandy. Not to mention, North Shore LIJ operates 3 nursing homes and have also sponsored their own medical school at Hofstra University.

There's more... Now North Shore LIJ has been licensed by the State of New York to sell health insurance! They are also looking into the takeover of Nassau County's 911 ambulance service system and helicopter medivac service! It appears that they are also looking into buying out the medical practices of doctors affiliated with Winthrop University Hospital, one of the only six hospitals that remain independent in the area. This will no doubt result in those doctors leaving Winthrop University Hospital, ultimately putting North Shore LIJ in a position to buy Winthrop University Hospital as well!

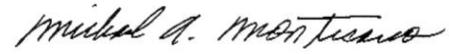
Let's face it: thanks to North Shore LIJ, there is **NO COMPETITION IN HEALTHCARE IN NASSAU COUNTY**. Because of this, **North Shore LIJ controls all aspects of medical care in Nassau County, from the hospitals, to the doctor's offices, to the nursing homes, to the 911 responses and medivac services, to the testing facilities, i.e. MRIS, CAT SCANS, etc., to the medical school and now health insurance! THEY OWN IT ALL AND CALL ALL THE SHOTS!** I have attached a breakdown of their conglomerate for your review.

While North Shore LIJ may currently provide sound medical services, it won't be long before the quality of their services begins to suffer due to the overwhelming effects of consolidation.

**I am requesting that your office open an investigation into this mega-corporation and its anti-competition practices.** North Shore LIJ's practices are having a significant negative impact on our local hospitals, remaining medical practices and surrounding communities and it needs to stop.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for more information. I await your reply on this very urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael A. Montesano".

Michael A. Montesano  
Member of Assembly  
15<sup>th</sup> District