

**Statement of  
Gerard J. Grimaldi  
Truman Medical Centers  
May 16, 2016**

Good Morning. Thank you for the opportunity to say a few words at today's hearing.

Truman Medical Centers (TMC) is Kansas City's **ESSENTIAL HOSPITAL** and serves two vital purposes in Western Missouri: Greater Kansas City's Safety Net health system for the uninsured and underinsured, and Western Missouri's Academic Medical Center, teaching those who will provide future care across Missouri and beyond.

TMC serves more than 108,000 patients, of whom an overwhelming majority have at least one chronic illness. In the last year TMC cared for these patients in more than 338,000 outpatient visits, plus an additional 275,000+ behavioral health visits. And, about half of all babies born in Kansas City annually are delivered at TMC Hospital Hill or the TMC Lakewood Family Birthplace.

In addition to serving as the Health Home for many Kansas Citians with primary and specialty outpatient care needs, TMC cared for more than 23,000 inpatients last year, plus an additional 2,700 behavioral health inpatients.

Truman Medical Centers also serves to meet the many specialty care needs of Kansas City's uninsured/underinsured. TMC's available specialty services are broad and wide-ranging. Importantly, TMC serves as Western Missouri's premier Level One Trauma Center and plays a key role in Western Missouri's emergency preparedness and catastrophe response. In sum, TMC is one of the very few Missouri health systems which demonstrates, through practice, a total commitment to caring for vulnerable populations.

We also note that, but for Truman Medical Centers and the Essential role it plays in the health care marketplace, the cost of health care to individuals and families would be significantly higher in the Kansas City area.

⊗ Notably, Truman Medical Centers provides about 12% of all uncompensated care in the state of Missouri.

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We want the department to be aware that a significant number of TMC's patients enrolled in both Senior Advantage and commercial insurers are racial and ethnic minorities. In addition, our data indicates that up to 40 percent of our patients in Senior Advantage plans are dual eligible enrollees.

Truman Medical Centers is concerned that narrow network decisions and/or pricing behavior by insurers after acquisitions occur could have a significant impact on continuity of care for TMC patients, many of whom are low income, especially our Medicare Advantage enrollees. The ability of Jackson Countians to obtain medical care at one of Missouri's few Essential Community Provider health systems could be jeopardized. And, post-acquisition decisions and insurer behavior could hinder options severely for current TMC patients who become Medicare eligible in the future (because of disability and/or age), ~~as well as for current TMC patients who become eligible for coverage in the Health Insurance Exchange in the future.~~ *The same applies*

~~Truman Medical Centers~~  
If plans narrow their networks after consolidation, it could place Truman Medical Centers' patients in a downward spiral of limited network access, hindering the ability of ~~tens of~~ thousands of patients to receive care from their preferred physicians in a preferred setting. *esp. for low income pts,*

As such, we ask that the Missouri Department of Insurance in its approval process, as much as permissible in this and future acquisition reviews, require health plans to include Essential Community Providers such as Truman Medical Centers in network at reasonable, appropriate, and fair reimbursement rates.

The rapid pace of change *and volatility* of today's health insurance marketplace at the individual, group, Medicaid, and Medicare levels presents increasingly more challenges for Essential providers of care like Truman Medical Centers. In its review of these acquisitions, we believe it is imperative for the Missouri Department of Insurance to take the strongest actions possible to protect Essential Community Providers. Such actions are necessary to assure reasonable and timely access to essential services in a culturally sensitive setting for all, but especially low income, beneficiaries in Jackson County, Missouri at Truman Medical Centers.

Thank you for your consideration.

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