

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 17, 2020

Mr. Stephen Boyd
Assistant Attorney General
Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 1145
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Assistant Attorney General Boyd:

We are writing with regard to the Justice Department's ongoing efforts in the matter *United States ex rel. Louis Longo v. Wheeling Hospital, Inc. et al.*, No. 17-cv-1654 (W.D. Pa.). This matter was filed as a qui tam action under the False Claims Act against Wheeling Hospital Inc. based on allegations surrounding Wheeling Hospital's billing practices.

Wheeling Hospital is located in Ohio County, West Virginia, which has approximately 44,000 residents in our state's northern panhandle. As recently as last year Ohio County was home to two full service hospitals: Ohio Valley Medical Center and Wheeling Hospital. In 2019, Ohio Valley Medical Center closed its doors, leaving Wheeling Hospital as the county's only hospital. The hospital serves patients from Brooke, Ohio, Marshall, Wetzel, and Tyler counties in West Virginia as well as patients from parts of neighboring Ohio and Pennsylvania.

It is crucial that the city of Wheeling and surrounding areas have a functioning hospital to meet the community's medical needs. That is especially true now as we face the global COVID-19 pandemic.

We recognize and support the Justice Department's responsibility to enforce our nation's laws and, to the extent possible, recover federal funds if evidence establishes that payments have been made in violation of applicable laws and regulations. As the Justice Department carries out that task in the Wheeling Hospital matter, it is important that the broader Wheeling community's access to high quality medical care at a fully functioning hospital is not jeopardized. Accordingly, we ask that you consider any remedies within the scope of your discretion that leave the community with access to critical hospital services.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter for our constituents in West Virginia's Northern Panhandle.

Sincerely,



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator