

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 6, 2025

Dr. Jawad Shah  
Founder and CEO  
Insight Health Systems  
1350 East Market St.  
Warren, OH 44482

Steward Health Care System Corporate Headquarters  
1900 N. Pearl St., Suite 2400  
Dallas, TX 75201

Edward K. Aldag, Jr.  
Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer  
Medical Properties Trust  
1000 Urban Center Drive, Suite 501  
Birmingham, AL 35242

Dear Dr. Shah, Mr. Aldag, and Representatives of Steward Health Care System,

I write to express my grave concerns regarding the havoc that the Steward Health Care, Insight Health, and Medical Properties Trust have wreaked on the citizens of Trumbull County, Ohio. Your collective predatory and potentially illegal actions have resulted in over 200,000 Ohioans losing access to health care services.<sup>1</sup>

Reiterating the past and present complex legal situation you have created will not do anything to undue the suffering you have caused the citizens of Trumbull County. Yet, some facts are worth recounting. Steward Health Care's nationwide predatory practices and financial missteps have been ongoing for many years. I could not begin to adequately chronicle all the nationwide damage Steward Health Care has caused, all at the expense of patients, while its executives are "sailing on their yachts."<sup>2</sup> Steward has racked up over \$50 million in unpaid rent, nationwide.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.wfmj.com/story/52664938/warren-mayor-calls-on-criminal-investigation-of-steward-health-for-alleged-medicare-fraud>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/the-impact-of-private-equitys-expansion-into-health-care/>;  
<https://businessjournaldaily.com/journal-opinion-steward-health-plague-returns/>;  
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/massachusetts-law-steward-health-care-hospitals/>;  
<https://www.healthcarediver.com/news/rockledge-hospital-close-april-orlando-steward/740631/>;  
<https://www.wsj.com/articles/ohio-hospitals-become-latest-to-close-after-steward-prospect-bankruptcies-10079674>;  
<https://prospect.org/health/2024-09-16-steward-health-are-health-care-terrorists/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://medicalproptiestrust.gcs-web.com/news-releases/news-release-details/medical-properties-trust-provides-update-steward-health-care>.

Unfortunately, Steward brought its drama and damaging practices to Ohio when it purchased Trumbull Regional Medical Center and Hillside Rehabilitation Hospital, then filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, and ultimately attempted to sell both assets. Insight became the operator of the health care system and lease holder of the assets, while Medical Properties Trust owned the real estate and was the landlord.<sup>4</sup>

The collective legal disputes<sup>5</sup> continued and, in late March 2025, Insight abruptly laid off nearly 700 Ohio employees, ceased operations, closed the doors to the facilities, and may have failed to pay employees for work performed.<sup>6</sup> It appears, based on a pop-up on Insight's website that they ceased operation of Trumbull and Hillside hospitals, all inpatient, outpatient and ER services "due to additional abrupt developments in Steward Health Care's bankruptcy proceedings and the mounting lack of transferred dollars owed for healthcare services."<sup>7</sup> Insight's website pop-up also announced that "[w]hile the plan remains in place to redesign the hospitals' operations fully independent of Steward, we apologize for the confusion this transition has caused the community..." It is hard to imagine that anyone would describe the result of shutting down an entire hospital system that services over 200,000 citizens as "confusion."

Simultaneously, Medical Properties Trust has also been focused on lining its own pockets. In fact, Medical Properties Trust expected to receive annualized cash rental payments of approximately \$160 million on the \$2.0 billion lease base upon stabilization in Q4 2026, or about 95 percent of what Steward would have owned.<sup>8</sup> All at the expense of Trumbull County citizens who are now limited to only one hospital in the county.

But the chaos and pain that you three have caused in Trumbull County does not end at the closure of health care systems. It has come to my attention that the 911 Dispatch Center for Trumbull County is located next to the Hillside Rehabilitation Center. The 911 Dispatch Center, which is in a building owned by Trumbull County, utilizes the electric and water utilities of the Hillside Rehabilitation Center and pays Hillside Rehabilitation Center for the use of the utilities. However, the 911 Dispatch Center cannot continue operations without access to basic utilities. Trumbull County officials have repeatedly attempted to reach out to obtain an agreement to continue to operations of the utilities for the 911 Dispatch Center. However, you have failed to respond to any Trumbull County officials' communications on this matter. It is vitally important that Trumbull County have a functioning 911 Dispatch Center.

It is absolutely imperative that the people of Trumbull County have access to quality health care. You should be ashamed and held responsible. If there is any indication that any of you have engaged in illegal practices, including but not limited to Medicare fraud, I will encourage law enforcement to investigate and prosecute you to the fullest extent of the law.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://medicalpropertiestrust.gcs-web.com/news-releases/news-release-details/medical-properties-trust-takes-control-its-real-estate-steward>.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.wfnj.com/story/51236724/landlord-denies-claims-that-it-crippled-stewards-efforts-to-sell-hospitals>.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.wfnj.com/story/52664938/warren-mayor-calls-on-criminal-investigation-of-steward-health-for-alleged-medicare-fraud>.

<sup>7</sup> <https://trumbullregional.org>.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.stocktitan.net/news/MPW/medical-properties-trust-takes-control-of-its-real-estate-from-jid3s7p4y4a9.html>.

Please respond to my office no later than five days from receipt of this letter:

- (1) How are you working to resolve disagreements to reopen Trumbull County and Hillside Rehabilitation Center?
- (2) If you do not plan to resolve disagreements, how will you assist the over 700 employees that you laid off find employment or provide retraining opportunities?
- (3) If you do not plan to resolve disagreements, how will you assist the patients you've abandoned find adequate health care in your collective absence?
- (4) Confirm that you have immediately contacted the Trumbull County officials who have repeatedly contacted you to reassure them that they will continue to have a functioning 911 Dispatch Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bernie Moreno". The signature is stylized with a large initial "B" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

BERNIE MORENO  
United States Senator