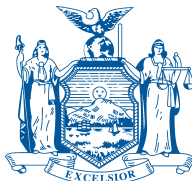


**Senator
MARISOL ALCANTARA
31ST DISTRICT**

ALBANY OFFICE:
ROOM 311
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
PHONE: (518) 455-2041
FAX: (518) 426-6847

DISTRICT OFFICE:
5030 BROADWAY, SUITE 701
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10034
PHONE: (212) 544-0173
FAX: (212) 544-0256



NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

**Assemblymember
CARMEN DE LA ROSA
72ND District**

ALBANY OFFICE:
ROOM 528
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12248
PHONE: (518) 455-5807
FAX: (518) 455-4908

DISTRICT OFFICE:
210 SHERMAN AVENUE, SUITE A
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10034
PHONE: (212) 544-2278
FAX: (212) 942-0807

Dear Dr. Sullivan,

As you may know, the New York-Presbyterian Hospital has submitted a Certification of Need to remove 30 inpatient psychiatric beds from the Allen Hospital. The New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA) and mental health advocates, along with many of our upper Manhattan and Bronx constituents, are rightfully concerned that the elimination of these beds will mean the removal of vital health services from the upper Manhattan and Bronx neighborhoods. As elected officials, representing the people, we write to you today to advocate on behalf of the patients and their families, whose lives are greatly benefited by the presence of these in-community mental health services. New York-Presbyterian regularly identifies behavioral health as being a priority in their plans to serve their community. In their own community health needs assessment conducted as part of the DSRIP process in December 2014, New York-Presbyterian identified mental health needs as a significant area of concern for them:

- Depression was among the top 5 diseases in NYP's service area, with 18% of Medicaid patients suffering from it.
- In addition, 14.5% of Medicaid patients were diagnosed with serious mental illness or substance abuse disorders in NYP PPS's service area
- Of Medicaid patients with chronic conditions admitted to CUMC, 66% had substance abuse problems and 30% had mental diseases and disorders.
- Interviews with community members and local health organizations identified a lack of mental health services as a clear issue facing the community.

In a follow-up community service plan from December 2016, New York-Presbyterian again identified promoting mental health and preventing substance abuse as one of their top three priorities. With the removal of these services from the community, it would seem to undermine their stated priorities. New York-Presbyterian claims that eliminating the 30 inpatient psychiatric beds at Allen Hospital can be easily absorbed throughout their system. Yet it seems unlikely that Allen Hospital patients would have a convenient, nearby location for them to go for their mental health needs. The closest hospital in the system, Columbia University Medical Center, has had a steady increase in inpatient discharges since 2012. In fact, the number of discharges grew by 20% between 2012 and 2015. New York-Presbyterian has also claimed that their Westchester Division and Gracie Square Hospital will be alternative options for the upper Manhattan and Bronx communities. However, the distance and inconvenience of these locations will leave patients without any stable psychiatric services.

It is deeply worrisome to hear that New York-Presbyterian is advocating to leave northern Manhattan and Bronx neighborhoods without suitable psychiatric resources. We therefore urge you to put our communities and patients' needs first, when considering New York-Presbyterian's request.

Sincerely,

**State Senator
MARISOL ALCÁNTARA**

**Assemblymember
CARMEN DE LA ROSA**

**Manhattan Borough President
GALE BREWER**

**Bronx Borough President
RUBÉN DÍAZ, JR.**

**City Councilmember
MARK LEVINE**

**City Councilmember
CARLINA RIVERA**

**City Councilmember
DIANA AYALA**

