



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

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January 15, 2020

Office of the Attorney General, State of California
c/o The Honorable Xavier Becerra
455 Golden Gate Avenue #11000
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Attorney General Becerra:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I am writing in full support of Women and Children's Health Services at Redwood Memorial Hospital, located in Fortuna, California. It is our understanding that Redwood Memorial Hospital faces an immediate threat of losing pediatric and obstetric services due to the change in ownership of the Redwood Women's Center and the decisions of the Providence St. Joseph Health System.

Without a requirement to maintain these vital health services in the Eel River Valley, the vast majority of Southern Humboldt County will struggle to provide emergency care for women and children in our community.

Further, there has been tremendous community support to train and recruit physicians to Humboldt County. The elimination of pediatric and obstetric services at Redwood Memorial hospital will make a difficult recruiting environment much worse by limiting practice opportunities for young physicians who might otherwise relocate to our rural community.

We are hopeful that with guidance from your office, the administration of Providence St. Joseph Health System will change direction and commit to maintaining critical pediatric and obstetrical services at Redwood Memorial Hospital for the benefit of all the residents of Humboldt County.

Sincerely,

Estelle Fennell, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

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