



University of California  
San Francisco

**Office of Community &  
Government Relations**

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490 Illinois Street, Floor 11  
San Francisco, CA 94143

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[www.ucsf.edu](http://www.ucsf.edu)

To whom it may concern:

University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) was pleased to provide the San Francisco Health Commission with the enclosed public comment urging support for the acquisition of St. Mary's Medical Center and Saint Francis Memorial Hospital by UCSF Health. The attached letters represent a broad spectrum of partners and stakeholders, including elected officials, community-based organizations, and health care providers.

We are grateful to have widespread support from San Francisco communities. There are 14 letters from nonprofit, business, faith-based and government organizations, including:

- Supervisor Aaron Peskin
- Supervisor Connie Chan
- Planned Parenthood of Northern California
- GLIDE
- Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation
- San Francisco Interfaith Council
- Self-Help For the Elderly
- Bradley Monash, MD, Vice Chief of Clinical Affairs, Division of Hospital Medicine
- Reproductive Freedom For All California (Formerly NARAL Pro-Choice California)
- Dr. Michael Schrader, San Francisco Medical Director, Dignity Foundation Medical Group
- Miguel Bustos, Deacon, Grace Cathedral
- Code Tenderloin
- Rally Family Visitation Services
- UCSF Spiritual Care Services

Additionally, we were pleased to see verbal, in-person public comment at the Health Commission hearing from five organizations, including Curry Senior Services, San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium, Code Tenderloin, Rally Family Visitation Services, and Planned Parenthood of Northern California.

Do not hesitate to reach out with any questions. I can be reached at [Amiee.Alden@ucsf.edu](mailto:Amiee.Alden@ucsf.edu) or 510-207-0628 (mobile).

Thank you,

Amiee Alden  
Senior Director, Local & State Government Relations  
Office of Community & Government Relations  
University of California, San Francisco



City and County of  
San Francisco



AARON PESKIN  
市參事佩斯金

President, Board of  
Supervisors

Sam Hawgood  
Chancellor, UCSF  
550 16th Street, 7th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94143

November 3, 2023

Dear Chancellor Hawgood,

I am writing to express my support for UCSF's ongoing negotiation with Dignity Health to acquire St. Mary's Medical Center, Saint Francis Memorial Hospital, and associated outpatient and urgent care clinics. This acquisition will allow UCSF to enhance critical health care services in San Francisco and extend the legacy of these community hospitals by expanding access to UCSF Health's world-class, research-driven care.

The acquisition will help UCSF Health meet the health needs of more people in our community who are underserved, particularly in the district that I represent. Dignity Health is currently the leading provider of Medi-Cal services in California, and other than Chinese Hospital, Saint Francis Memorial Hospital has been the central hub for community-based healthcare in the northeast side of the city. UCSF plans to continue this vital service to our vulnerable populations in the Tenderloin and San Francisco, regardless of their ability to pay, along with maintaining both Saint Francis and St. Mary's critical behavior health beds.

I am pleased that UCSF has committed to substantially maintain the existing workforce of the two hospitals, as well as critical programs such as the Gender Institute program at Saint Francis and the Adolescent Psychiatric program at St. Mary's. I also appreciate UCSF's effort to reach out to community partners around both hospitals, including conducting three public meetings to meet the neighbors around the hospitals, to introduce UCSF leaders and staff, and to learn community questions and concerns. I had the pleasure of attending one of the first meetings, and was heartened by the community response.

Thank you for keeping public officials informed of the progress of these negotiations, and for your commitment to public health in San Francisco.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aaron Peskin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Aaron" being more prominent than the last name "Peskin".

Aaron Peskin

Member, Board of Supervisors  
District 1



City and County of San Francisco

**CONNIE CHAN**

陳詩敏

第一區市參事

October 25, 2023

Sam Hawgood, Chancellor  
University of California, San Francisco  
550 16th Street, 7th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94143

**VIA Email**

Dear Chancellor Hawgood:

I am writing to express my support for UCSF's ongoing negotiation with Dignity Health to acquire St. Mary's Medical Center, which is located within the district I represent. I believe this acquisition will enhance critical health care services for the residents living in the Richmond District and San Francisco as a whole. It also extends the legacy of this beloved community hospital and expands access to UCSF Health's world-class, research-driven care.

The acquisition will help UCSF Health meet the health needs of more people in our community who are underserved. Dignity Health is currently the leading provider of Medi-Cal services in California and I'm glad to hear that UCSF plans to continue services to vulnerable populations, regardless of their ability to pay.

I am pleased that UCSF has committed to substantially maintaining the existing workforce, as well as critical programs such as the Adolescent Psychiatric program. I am also hopeful that this acquisition will help positively resolve ongoing labor negotiations at St. Mary's.

Finally, I also appreciate UCSF's efforts to reach out to community partners and conducting public meetings to learn about community questions and concerns and meet our neighbors. Thank you for keeping our communities informed of the progress of these negotiations, and for your commitment to public health in San Francisco.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "C. Chan", written over a horizontal line.

Connie Chan  
Supervisor, District 1

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Planned Parenthood Northern California

February 15, 2024

San Francisco Health Commission  
c/o Mark Morowitz, Executive Secretary  
101 Grove Street, Room 309  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear San Francisco Health Commission,

I am writing to support the acquisition of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital and St. Mary's Medical Center by the University of California, San Francisco. At a time when communities are losing health care options, this deal preserves local care by ensuring that two of San Francisco's longest-serving community hospitals and the unique services they provide will remain accessible to San Franciscans. It will also expand access to reproductive health care.

UCSF is a leader in reproductive health care and provides critical services such as the Pregnancy Options Centers that serve patients traveling from within California and from other states, the EMBRACE program that aims to advance equitable outcomes for Black pregnant people, and Team Lily, which cares for pregnant people affected by substance abuse, homelessness, and mental illness. Following the acquisition, I'm pleased that there will not be any policy-based restrictions on reproductive care at either hospital.

I urge you to support this deal to advance the health of San Francisco.

Thank you,



Gilda Gonzales  
President and CEO  
Planned Parenthood Northern California

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**Regional Offices:**

1522 Bush Street, San Francisco, CA 94109 • p: 415.821.1984 • f: 415.920.2079  
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GLIDE EXECUTIVE  
LEADERSHIP

Dr. Gina M. Fromer  
*President & CEO*

GLIDE Foundation  
330 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA 94102  
2/15/2024

San Francisco Health Commission  
c/o Mark Morowitz, Executive Secretary  
101 Grove Street, Room 309  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear San Francisco Health Commission,

I am writing to voice our support for the acquisition of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital and St. Mary's Medical Center by the University of California, San Francisco. GLIDE's mission is to create a radically inclusive, just, and loving community mobilized to alleviate suffering and break the cycles of poverty and marginalization. The community members that we serve struggle to have their basic needs met, which includes a severe gap in medical and dental services. This deal preserves local care in the Tenderloin by ensuring that two of San Francisco's longest-serving community hospitals, and the unique services they provide, will remain accessible to San Franciscans.

I am pleased that UCSF stated its commitment to retaining existing services, ensuring patients have convenient local access for their primary and specialty care needs. Moreover, UCSF Health has committed to exploring ways to better serve the Tenderloin community members most in need of their medical and dental services. Ensuring local doctors can continue to practice at each location preserves critical longstanding patient-provider relationships and supports San Francisco's diverse medical community. I believe that bringing community-based care and academic medicine together will make care better for patients and meet our community's health needs in an integrated and equitable way.

In the Tenderloin in particular, there is a growing demand for critically needed health care services. As a community-based organization that serves the Tenderloin, we welcome the prospect of UCSF bringing community care and academic medicine together in an integrated and equitable way to improve the health of our most vulnerable communities.

I urge you to support this deal to advance the health of San Francisco.

Thank you,

Dr. Gina M. Fromer  
President & CEO GLIDE  
Foundation





Maurilio León  
Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation  
201 Eddy St  
San Francisco, CA 94102

February 15, 2024

c/o Mark Morowitz, Executive Secretary  
101 Grove Street, Room 309  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear San Francisco Health Commission,

I am writing to voice my support for the acquisition of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital and St. Mary's Medical Center by the University of California, San Francisco. At a time when communities are losing health-care options, this deal preserves local care by ensuring that two of San Francisco's longest-serving community hospitals, and the unique services they provide, will remain accessible to San Franciscans.

I am pleased that UCSF stated its commitment to retaining existing services, ensuring patients have convenient local access for their primary and specialty care needs. Moreover, UCSF Health has also committed to the retention of the employees of both hospitals and their open medical staff model. Ensuring local doctors can continue to practice at each location preserves critical longstanding patient-provider relationships and supports San Francisco's diverse medical community. I believe that bringing community-based care and academic medicine together will make care better for patients and meet our community's health needs in an integrated and equitable way.

TNDC develops community and provides affordable housing and services for people with low incomes in the Tenderloin and throughout San Francisco. For nearly 43 years, TNDC has served families, seniors, formerly unhoused individuals, and transitional age youth. Today, we are the largest provider of affordable housing in the City serving 6,300 residents across seven neighborhoods.

TNDC believes that housing *is* health care. A stable home supports regular access to providers and social support services as well as improves adherence to preventive care, good nutrition, and treatment plans. In the communities we serve, there is a growing demand for critical health care services. As a community-based organization, we welcome the prospect of UCSF bringing community care and academic medicine together in an integrated and equitable way to improve the health of our most vulnerable communities.

I urge you to support this deal to advance the health of San Francisco.

Thank you,

maurilio león (he/him)  
CEO







# San Francisco Interfaith Council

*Celebrating our diverse faiths & spiritual traditions  
Bringing people together to build understanding  
Serving our community*

P.O. Box 29055  
San Francisco, CA 94129  
Phone: 415.474.1321  
www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org

**Michael G. Pappas, M.Div.**  
Executive Director  
mgpappas@sfinterfaithcouncil.org

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*San Francisco Night Ministry*  
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*Glide Memorial Church*

February 15, 2024

San Francisco Health Commission  
c/o Mark Morowitz, Executive Secretary  
101 Grove Street, Room 309  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear San Francisco Health Commission,

I am writing to voice my support for the acquisition of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital and St. Mary's Medical Center by the University of California, San Francisco. At a time when communities are losing health care options, this deal preserves local care by ensuring that two of San Francisco's longest-serving community hospitals, and the unique services they provide, will remain accessible to San Franciscans.

I am pleased that UCSF stated its commitment to retaining existing services, ensuring patients have convenient local access for their primary and specialty care needs. Moreover, UCSF Health has also committed to the retention of the employees of both hospitals and their open medical staff model. Ensuring local doctors can continue to practice at each location preserves critical longstanding patient-provider relationships and supports San Francisco's diverse medical community. I believe that bringing community-based care and academic medicine together will make care better for patients and meet our community's health needs in an integrated and equitable way.

At UCSF, Chaplains representing many faiths are available around the clock to be a caring presence, offer spiritual and emotional support, and listen with openness and understanding. Although the two hospitals will not retain their religious affiliations, I am confident that UCSF will continue to meet the spiritual needs of its patients and live up to the legacy of Saint Francis.

I urge you to support this deal to advance the health of San Francisco.

Thank you,

Michael G. Pappas, M.Div.  
Executive Director



**Self-Help for  
the Elderly**

安老自助處

[www.selfhelpelderly.org](http://www.selfhelpelderly.org)

731 Sansome Street, Suite 100 | San Francisco, CA 94111-1725

t: (415) 677-7600 | f: (415) 296-0313 | e: [info@selfhelpelderly.org](mailto:info@selfhelpelderly.org)

*Providing strength, hope and empowerment to seniors since 1966*

February 14, 2024

San Francisco Health Commission  
c/o Mark Morowitz, Executive Secretary  
101 Grove Street, Room 309  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear San Francisco Health Commission,

I am writing to voice my support for the acquisition of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital and St. Mary's Medical Center by the University of California, San Francisco. At a time when communities are losing healthcare options, this deal preserves local care by ensuring that two of San Francisco's longest-serving community hospitals and the unique services they provide will remain accessible to San Franciscans.

I am pleased that UCSF stated its commitment to retaining existing services, ensuring patients have convenient local access for their primary and specialty care needs. Moreover, UCSF Health has also committed to keeping the employees of both hospitals and their open medical staff model. Ensuring local doctors can continue to practice at each location preserves critical, longstanding patient-provider relationships and supports San Francisco's diverse medical community. I believe that bringing together community-based care and academic medicine will make care better for patients and meet our community's health needs in an integrated and equitable way.

UCSF Medical Center is consistently ranked as one of the top hospitals in the United States. As a world leader in innovative research and one of the highest-ranked medical schools in the country, the university also brings to Saint Francis and St. Mary's increased access to life-changing clinical trials and the next generation of healthcare providers. Bringing Saint Francis and St. Mary's into the health system will expand access to UCSF Health's internationally renowned experts and highly specialized, innovative care.

I urge you to support this deal to advance the health of San Francisco.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Anni Chung  
President and CEO

**San Francisco**

415.677.7500  
601 Jackson Street  
San Francisco, CA 94133

**San Mateo**

650.342.0822  
50 East Fifth Avenue  
San Mateo, CA 94401

**South Bay**

408.733.1883  
550 East Remington Drive  
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

**Alameda**

510.336.0144  
2400 MacArthur Boulevard  
Oakland, CA 94602



Bradley Monash, MD  
521 Parnassus Avenue, Box 0131  
San Francisco, CA 94143

February 22, 2024

San Francisco Health Commission  
c/o Mark Morewitz, Executive Secretary  
101 Grove Street, Room 309  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear San Francisco Health Commission,

I am writing to voice my support for the acquisition of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital and St. Mary's Medical Center by the University of California, San Francisco. At a time when communities are losing health care options, this deal preserves local care by ensuring that two of San Francisco's longest-serving community hospitals, and the unique services they provide, will remain accessible to San Franciscans.

UCSF Medical Center continues to manage a high number of patients boarding in the UCSF emergency department due to the hospital being perpetually at capacity. This results in patients potentially languishing in the UCSF emergency department for days or leaving the hospital prematurely, without being seen by a medical provider. The acquisition of a hospital with empty patient care units merely a mile away affords a critical opportunity to provide the requisite care to our patients in the San Francisco community. Patients presenting to the emergency department deserve to be seen in a timely fashion, and patients requiring inpatient hospitalization deserve expeditious transfer to an inpatient care unit.

I am pleased that UCSF stated its commitment to retaining existing services, ensuring patients have convenient local access for their primary and specialty care needs. Moreover, UCSF Health has also committed to the retention of the employees of both hospitals and their open medical staff model. Ensuring local doctors can continue to practice at each location preserves critical longstanding patient-provider relationships and supports San Francisco's diverse medical community. I believe that bringing community-based care and academic medicine together will make care better for patients and meet our community's health needs in an integrated and equitable way.

UCSF Medical Center is consistently ranked as one of the top hospitals in the United States. As a world-leader in innovative research and one of the highest-ranked medical schools in the country, the university also brings to Saint Francis and St. Mary's increased access to life-changing clinical trials and the next generation of health care providers. Bringing Saint Francis and St. Mary's into the health system will expand access to UCSF Health's internationally renowned experts and highly specialized, innovative care.

I urge you to support this deal to advance the health of San Francisco.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B Monash', with a stylized, cursive script.

Bradley Monash, MD  
Vice Chief of Clinical Affairs, Division of Hospital Medicine  
Department of Medicine  
UCSF Health  
[Bradley.Monash@ucsf.edu](mailto:Bradley.Monash@ucsf.edu)

# REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM<sup>FOR</sup> ALL CALIFORNIA

San Francisco Health Commission  
c/o Mark Morowitz, Executive Secretary  
101 Grove Street, Room 309  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear San Francisco Health Commission,

On behalf of Reproductive Freedom for All California (formerly NARAL Pro-Choice California), I am writing to express our support for the acquisition of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital and St. Mary's Medical Center by the University of California, San Francisco. For over 50 years, Reproductive Freedom for All has fought to protect and advance reproductive freedom at the federal and state levels—including access to abortion care, birth control, and pregnancy and postpartum care—for everybody. The acquisition of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital and St. Mary's Medical Center by UCSF will guarantee that all patients receiving care at these facilities are able to access comprehensive reproductive and LGBTQ-inclusive health care.

UCSF is a national leader in reproductive health care and provides critical services such as the Pregnancy Options Centers that serve patients traveling from within California and from other states, the EMBRACE program that aims to advance equitable outcomes for Black pregnant people, and Team Lily which cares for pregnant people affected by substance abuse, homelessness, and mental illness. UCSF also has a history of excellent reproductive health research, including through its programs Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health (ANSIRH), the Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health, and more.

In 2019, Reproductive Freedom for All California opposed the expanded partnership between UCSF and Dignity Health due to the highly restrictive policies at Dignity Health facilities, namely, the requirement to follow either the Ethical and Religious Directives for Health Care Services (ERDs) or the organizational "Statement of Common Values." Both the ERDs and Statement of Common Values are nonmedical documents that forbid many reproductive health services. In its acquisition of Saint Francis and St. Mary's, UCSF has made clear that moving forward, both hospitals "...will not be subject to ethical religious directives, statements of common value, or any policy-based restrictions on care. All UCSF Health clinical policies will apply at UCSF Health Saint Francis Hospital and UCSF Health St. Mary's Hospital, including our commitments to comprehensive reproductive care." Access to comprehensive reproductive and LGBTQ-inclusive health care is essential, and with the assurance that UCSF Health clinical policies will apply at both hospitals, we are pleased to support this acquisition.

We are grateful to UCSF's commitment to ensuring high quality health care for all San Franciscans and all patients who come to San Francisco to receive exceptional, equitable, and inclusive health care. I urge your support of this agreement.

Thank you,



Shannon Olivieri Hovis  
Director  
Reproductive Freedom for All California

Michael C. Schrader, MD, PhD, FACP  
1199 Bush St. Suite 400  
San Francisco, CA 94109

February 15, 2024

San Francisco Health Commission  
c/o Mark Morowitz, Executive Secretary  
101 Grove Street, Room 309  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear San Francisco Health Commission,

I support the acquisition of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital, St. Mary's Medical Center and the San Francisco Dignity Foundation Medical Group by the University of California, San Francisco. At a time when communities are losing health care options, this deal preserves local care by ensuring that two of San Francisco's longest-serving community hospitals, and the unique services they provide, will remain accessible to San Franciscans.

As a primary care provider at both St. Mary's and Saint Francis, I look forward to continuing to meet the health care needs of San Franciscans as an integral part of UCSF. We currently face a crisis in access to primary care in our community. My preliminary discussions with UCSF leadership has led me to believe that UCSF is committed to using resources to maintain and expand primary care in our community. UCSF is already offering employment with our group to two primary care physician candidates who are currently finishing residency. With UCSF resources and commitment we can make progress in building primary care access for San Franciscans.

I am pleased that UCSF has stated commitment to retaining existing services, ensuring patients have access for their primary and specialty healthcare needs. Bringing Saint Francis and St. Mary's into the UCSF health system should improve coordination with UCSF Health's internationally renowned experts and highly specialized, innovative care.

I urge you to support this deal to advance the health of San Francisco.

Thank you,

Michael C. Schrader

Michael C. Schrader, MD, PhD, FACP  
San Francisco Medical Director, Dignity Foundation Medical Group  
Professor, Volunteer Clinical Professors, UCSF  
Past President, San Francisco Marin Medical Society

The Reverend Miguel Bustos

February 15, 2024

San Francisco Health Commission  
c/o Mark Morowitz, Executive Secretary  
101 Grove Street, Room 309  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear San Francisco Health Commission,

As a former board member of St. Mary's Medical Center and life-long San Franciscan, I am writing to voice my support for the acquisition of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital and St. Mary's Medical Center by the University of California, San Francisco. At a time when communities are losing health care options, this deal preserves local care by ensuring that two of San Francisco's longest-serving community hospitals, and the unique services they provide, will remain accessible to San Franciscans.

I am pleased that UCSF stated its commitment to retaining existing services, ensuring patients have convenient local access for their primary and specialty care needs. Moreover, UCSF Health has also committed to the retention of the employees of both hospitals and their open medical staff model. Ensuring local doctors can continue to practice at each location preserves critical longstanding patient-provider relationships and supports San Francisco's diverse medical community. I believe that bringing community-based care and academic medicine together will make care better for patients and meet our community's health needs in an integrated and equitable way.

At UCSF, Chaplains representing many faiths are available around the clock to be a caring presence, offer spiritual and emotional support, and listen with openness and understanding. Although the two hospitals will not retain their religious affiliations, I am confident that UCSF will continue to meet the spiritual needs of its patients and live up to the legacy of Saint Francis.

I urge you to support this opportunity to advance the health of San Francisco.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Miguel Bustos", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.



Donna Hilliard  
Executive Director, Code Tenderloin  
55 Taylor Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102



February 15, 2024

San Francisco Health Commission  
c/o Mark Morowitz, Executive Secretary  
101 Grove Street, Room 309  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear San Francisco Health Commission,

I am writing to voice my support for the acquisition of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital and St. Mary's Medical Center by the University of California, San Francisco. At a time when communities are losing healthcare options, this deal preserves local care by ensuring that two of San Francisco's longest-serving community hospitals, and the unique services they provide, will remain accessible to San Franciscans.

Code Tenderloin has a deep relationship with both UCSF and Saint Francis Memorial Hospital. From workforce partnerships to mobile COVID vaccination, our work with these institutions has shown their capacity to support the health of the Tenderloin community. I am particularly excited by the Night and Weekends Street Navigation Project with Saint Francis Memorial Hospital and the San Francisco Department of Public Health. In this work, we have shown the critical need for shelter and medical respite services during the night and weekend periods.

In the Tenderloin, there is a growing demand for critically needed healthcare services. As a community-based organization that serves the Tenderloin, we welcome the prospect of UCSF Health continuing to support the community-based work to improve the health of our most vulnerable communities.

I urge you to support this deal to advance the health of San Francisco.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donna Hilliard", written over a horizontal line.

Donna Hilliard  
Executive Director  
Code Tenderloin



February 16, 2024

San Francisco Health Commission  
c/o Mark Morowitz, Executive Secretary  
101 Grove Street, Room 309  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear San Francisco Health Commission,

I am writing on behalf of Rally Family Services to voice my support for the acquisition of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital and St. Mary's Medical Center by the University of California, San Francisco. Rally Family Visitation Services has been a community program of Saint Francis Hospital for over 30 years. The program was started through a partnership between Saint Francis Hospital and the San Francisco Superior Court to provide supervised visitation services to families referred by the family court due to separation or divorce and experiencing high conflict, including domestic violence. The program today has expanded to serve families in San Mateo and Marin Counties. Last year the program served over 500 parents and children.

As a partner of Dignity Health, we provide important services that support the continued emotional bond between a child and their parents. I am heartened that UCSF Health has committed to supporting this program and eager to explore how we can serve more families in need.

I urge you to support this deal to advance the health of all San Franciscans.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sonia Melara", written over a horizontal line.

Sonia Melara  
Executive Director

RALLY FAMILY VISITATION SERVICES

900 Hyde Street	San Francisco, CA 94109	(415) 353-6595	FAX (415) 353-6534
477 9 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	San Mateo, CA 94402	(650) 345-5011	FAX (650) 342-5024

521 Parnassus Avenue  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor UCSF Box 0356  
San Francisco, CA 94143  
USA tel: 415-353-1941  
fax: 415-353-8555

<http://ucsfspiritualcare.org>  
[www.ucsfhealth.org](http://www.ucsfhealth.org)

University of California  
San Francisco

Rev. Susan Conrad  
Director, Spiritual Care and Chaplaincy Education  
UCSF Health

February 14, 2024

San Francisco Health Commission  
c/o Mark Morowitz, Executive Secretary  
101 Grove Street, Room 309  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear San Francisco Health Commission,

I am writing to voice my support for the acquisition of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital and St. Mary's Medical Center by the University of California, San Francisco. At a time when communities are losing health care options, this deal preserves local care by ensuring that two of San Francisco's longest-serving community hospitals, and the unique services they provide, will remain accessible to San Franciscans.

I am pleased that UCSF has stated its commitment to retaining existing services, ensuring patients have convenient local access for their primary and specialty care needs. Moreover, UCSF Health has also committed to the retention of the employees of both hospitals and their open medical staff model. Ensuring local doctors can continue to practice at each location preserves critical longstanding patient-provider relationships and supports San Francisco's diverse medical community. I believe that bringing community-based care and academic medicine together will make care better for patients and meet our community's health needs in an integrated and equitable way.

At UCSF, professionally trained Staff Chaplains and Chaplain Trainees from diverse spiritual perspectives and backgrounds are available to be a caring presence, offer spiritual and emotional support, and listen with openness and understanding to our patients and their loved ones. UCSF is committed to whole person care that is spiritually and culturally appropriate for all patients, based on their respective world views, and their families. Although the two hospitals will not retain their religious affiliations, I am confident that UCSF will continue our mission of meeting the diverse spiritual needs of our patients. We take this responsibility seriously, and look forward to partnering with our Spiritual Care colleagues at St. Francis and St. Mary's to meet these needs.

I urge you to support this deal to advance the health of San Francisco.

Thank you,

