

Offered by Councilors Timothy McCarthy and Ed Flynn



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING THE PROPOSED 13 HOSPITAL MERGER OF CAREGROUP, INC. (PARENT COMPANY OF BETH ISRAEL DEACONNESS MEDICAL CENTER) AND LAHEY HEALTH SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the proposed merger led by Beth Israel Deaconess (BI) and Lahey Health System represents the most significant change in the Massachusetts health care market in more than 20 years and, if approved, would result in a second market goliath on par with Partners Health Care; And

WHEREAS, BI and Lahey represent already higher priced hospital networks and, if this merger is approved, would have increased market leverage; And

WHEREAS, The Attorney General's Office and CHIA have shown the market leverage of providers to be the principle reason for health cost increases in the state; And

WHEREAS, a consolidated BI-Lahey would control a large percentage of primary care and emergency room visits in this region and could impact the ability of community hospitals to serve low-income communities of color; And

WHEREAS, a consolidated BI-Lahey would have a significant impact on both costs and access to care for local patients in the City of Boston; And

WHEREAS, The Health Policy Commission (HPC), Attorney General's Office, and other entities are currently reviewing this merger and its potential impact on health costs, access to care, and the overall health care marketplace; And

WHEREAS, there has been relatively little public discussion about the potential impact of this major potential change to our health care system.

NOW,

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED.

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to hear from the experts and stakeholders to better understand the potential impact of this proposed major merger on health care in the City of Boston. Representatives from Beth Israel and Lahey Health, the Attorney General's Office, the HPC, the DPH, impacted community hospitals, and other interested parties shall be invited to attend.