

Comments on the matter of the March 7, 2023, hearing on the Sanford-Fairview merger.

I agree with the Minneapolis Star Tribune editorial board in arguments it published on February 6, 2023. Generally, the newspaper editors' arguments were unfavorable towards a merger between Sanford Health and Fairview. I agree with the newspaper editors who point out that Minnesotans have made donations which are incorporated into present-day Fairview and so our valued investments in it should be protected. Our investment in the nonprofit Fairview should not be handed over to a South Dakota entity. I like the proposal that requires a health care system like Fairview to (as the editors wrote):

“. . . return to the general fund [of the State of Minnesota] any charitable assets received from the state if is merging with a for-profit or out-of-state entity. Fairview held \$5.485 billion in charitable assets at the end of 2021, according to the most recent statement filed with the attorney general's office.

This would be a complex undertaking. But if Minnesota has given up revenue to benefit an organization, it's reasonable to consider whether an out-of-state entity simply gets to reap those rewards.”

I especially am opposed to the University of Minnesota's medical center being sent out of Minnesotans' control, as this is an asset that should remain under our state's control. It should never be subject to Sanford Health, or any entity, which is not legally accountable to residents and voters in Minnesota.

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