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February 4, 2025

Her Excellency Governor Maura Healey
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon St., Office of the Governor
Boston, MA 02133

CC: Dr. Robbie Goldstein, MD, PhD
Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Subject: Urgent Opposition to the Closure of Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital for Children

Dear Governor Healey,

We, the undersigned former and current staff and volunteers of Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital for Children (formerly the Massachusetts Hospital School), urge your administration to reconsider the proposed closure of this vital institution.

Pappas has been more than just a hospital or school for generations—it has served as a beacon of hope for children with complex medical needs. This facility is one of the few places in the country where medical care, adaptive education, and specialized recreational programs seamlessly integrate to provide young people with the dignity, independence, and opportunities they deserve. Closing its doors would be not only a loss of infrastructure but also a loss of possibilities for some of the most vulnerable children in Massachusetts.

Many of us have had the privilege of witnessing Pappas's extraordinary impact firsthand. We have seen students thrive in programs that empower them through adaptive sports, cutting-edge therapies, or groundbreaking community theater performances. These experiences shape lives in ways that extend far beyond the institution's walls. The state-of-the-art care provided at Pappas cannot simply be replicated elsewhere, and any transition plan must prioritize these children's well-being and continued progress rather than just cost-cutting measures.

Eliminating Pappas would disrupt the lives of its students and families and set a troubling precedent in a state known for its leadership in healthcare and disability rights. Massachusetts has long been at the forefront of inclusive, innovative care, and dismantling this facility would be a step in the wrong direction.

We respectfully urge you to pause this decision and engage directly with affected families, medical professionals, and advocates to explore alternatives that preserve Pappas's high level of care. The children and families who depend on this institution deserve a thoughtful, humane solution—not displacement and uncertainty.

Sincerely,



Jeremy J. Comeau

Former Recreation Department Staff
Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital for Children

Former and Current Staff and Volunteers of the
Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital for Children

Sarah Small Titus

Recreation

Natalie Carmichael (St. Germain)

Recreation

Megan Diamond

Recreation

Amy Correia Varnum

Recreation

Jocelyn Coffey

Physical Therapy

Caitlin Roche-McCafferty

Recreation

Jen Melle (Tabor)

Recreation

Katie Perkins Mello

Recreation

Laura Tropeano (Connolly)

Recreation

Lawrence Simmons

Recreation/Nursing

Ellen Hebb

Brayton School

Kevin Eardley

Recreation

Jill Druhan Albanese

Recreation/Brayton School

Lauren Ferreira

Recreation

Brooke Patch (Markt)
Recreation

Jennifer Carrington
Nursing

Hayley Teague
Aramark Kitchen

Susan Bratti
Nursing

Michelle Flynn
Recreation

Melissa Cabral
Nursing

Evelyn Carrington
Friends on Friday

Lillian Carrington
Friends on Friday

Michelle O'Hara
Recreation

Amanda Beaulieu
Nursing

Bob Macari
Housekeeping

Katie McKinley (Kemmitt McKinley)
Recreation

Samantha Macari
Nursing

Celines Ventola
Nursing/Recreation/S.I.L.E.

Edward Poznysz
Pharmacy

Anne Marie Hurley
Brayton School/S.I.L.E.

Jim Leonard
Recreation

Megan Shulse
Recreation

Megan Hanlon
Brayton School

Lisa Thompson Leland
Recreation/S.I.L.E.

Kristen Gostanian
Nursing

Melissa Ryan-Knowlton
Recreation

Andrea Sullivan
Nursing

Maureen Arnstein
Nursing

Karen Wheeler Madden
Medical

Christine O'Gara
Occupational Therapy

Erin Pelham
Brayton School

Elizabeth Sanzone
Brayton School

Katherine Teahan
Nursing

Kelly O'Connor
Nursing

Sarah Albanese

Recreation

Wendy Hines

Brayton School

Sabrina Perry (Kennefick)

Physical Therapy

Michelle Mele

Nursing

Michelle Sweeney

Physical Therapy

Brittany Schiller

Respiratory

Emilie O'Brien

Recreation

Amanda Boucher

Recreation

Caitlyn Norton

Recreation

Julian Concannon

Occupational Therapy

Lindsay Horowitz

Brayton School

Kathryn Brewer

Brayton School

Tammy MacIsaac

Nursing

Lindsay Tivnan (Milot)

Speech Department

Karen Leahy

Nursing

Katrina Mocchiolo

Dietary

Lia Herlihy

Nursing

Karen Brady

Recreation/Nursing

Faith Ferrando

Physical Therapy

Patty Orton

Nursing

Keith Adams

Physical Therapy

Mary Kate Clougherty

Easterseals

Ann Elise Breton-Shea

Brayton School

Jessica Morton

Recreation/Brayton School

Dina Smaga

Brayton School

Shirley Benedetti

Nursing/Physical Therapy

Erin Tibets

Case Management

Joan Fay Olah

Brayton School

Donna Nickerson

Learning & Development

Caitlyn Horigan

Brayton School

Barbara Curtis
Physical Therapy

Jessica Ribeiro
Nursing Department

Anthony L. Beaumont
Nursing

Chad Gouthro
Facilities Maintenance

Bona Wong
Physical Therapy

Lisa Anuszczyk
Nursing Department

Angelena Starks
Behavioral Therapy

Linda Ferreira
Aramark Kitchen

Lelend Sisco
Facilities Maintenance

Lisa Morris
Nursing

Christina Haire
Nursing

Cheryl Alves
Nursing

Lisa O'Donovan (Flaherty)
Brayton School

David Webb
Nursing

Shawn Fogg
SEIS Tech Support

Vanessa Creador
Brayton School

Emily Ruel
Nursing

Meadbh Kennedy
Recreation

Justyna Gatewood
Nursing

Brad Dillman
Safety

Kerry Kennedy
Nursing

Jennifer Ford
Brayton School

Donna McCrorey
Occupational Therapy

Jennifer Farrell
Brayton School

Paula Rogers Jacobs
Office of the CEO

Matt Harkins
Recreation

Erin Sergi (Denneen)
Occupational Therapy

Marie McHugh
Physical Therapy

Rachel McHugh
Recreation

Sweden Culver
Nursing

Jennifer Hughes Thomas
Nursing

Kim Daley
Brayton School

Elizabeth Diedricksen
Occupational Therapy

Jennifer Lambert
Brayton School

Keeley Boutross
Nursing

Cameron Lyons
Recreation

Kathleen Cerra
Brayton School

Debra Porter
Brayton School

Suellen Rosenberger
Nursing

Christine Bilyeu
Occupational Therapy

Cristina DosSantos
Nursing

Chris Roche
Recreation

Paige Szydlowski
Nursing

Patricia Donnelly
Brayton School

Dawn McCauley
Recreation

Karen Lewis
Quality

Liam Noonan
Recreation

Angela Marie Spalding
Recreation

Katie Vacca
Recreation/Brayton School

Roy Gichel
Car

Callie Brown
Recreation

Meredith Daly
Recreation/Occupational Therapy

Sheila Downing-Ruth
Occupational Therapy

Donna Altieri
Brayton School

Melissa Fogg (Watson)
Recreation/ S.I.L.E

Dr Ruchi Arora
Medical Department