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**MICHAEL J. MURPHY**  
ALDERMAN, 10TH DISTRICT

# Ascension service reduction at St. Joseph hospital impacts most vulnerable

Statement from Alderman Michael J. Murphy

**April 9, 2018**

A recent announcement by Ascension Wisconsin drastically reducing its services at St. Joseph hospital has me deeply concerned for the community, including some of my constituents of which the hospital serves.

The downsizing of a longtime central city provider like St. Joseph is a terrible indictment of our health care system. This comes in a time when those most in need of services are the ones losing them. This ultimately creates a greater separation of classes and races in Milwaukee.

While this reduction of services clearly points to an overall erosion of our health care system, Ascension very much bears responsibility. In speaking to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, an Ascension C-suite executive unfairly puts the burden on an already vulnerable community with a “call to action” as the health care provider looks for input on how it may shift services in the facility. He goes onto say, “If we get no one, it will speak volumes from a community standpoint.” I say silence should not be deemed approval.

I am reminded of six years ago when Aurora Sinai Medical Center explored shuttering its emergency room. My office was among those who spoke very critically of the proposed closure. Ultimately the health care provider decided on keeping the E.R. open. I am hopeful that despite this very concerning news from Ascension, we can sway a decision to retain services once again.