

State Representative Michael Echols
300 Washington Street, Floor 2
Monroe LA 71201

September 10, 2024

Senate Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to allow me to testify before your steam committee. The issue with Steward Health Group and Glenwood Regional Medical Center has created an imbalance in Northeast Louisiana and the healthcare delivery system. I have over the last year and a half seen the dramatic impact to patient care as well as the imbalance in the delivery system for a rural hospitals because of Stewards negligence and malfeasance. After visiting with local physicians and patients it was alerted to me that there were major problems at Glenwood Hospital. The physicians had deep concerns about the lack of supplies, leadership issues, and other bad decisions that were being made by executives of Stuart health group who manage Glenwood Regional Medical Center and how it was impacting their ability to care for patients. Soon after these anomalies started being presented by physicians, Glenwood Regional Medical Center started to eliminate service lines such as labor and delivery, urologic care, major diagnostics such as MRI as well as other specialist services because of this mismanagement.

As a legislator I was inclined to have a hearing to discuss many of these issues in a public forum to allow individuals to express their concerns both the public as well as providers in the medical community. Prior to having a public hearing I was able to meet with Louisiana Department Of Health representatives such as Stephen Russo, who at the time was the Executive Counsel of LDH. There were numerous communications with them who intern communicated with Glenwood leadership team as well as Stuart exec at the time you could easily determine that something was wrong after several months of back-and-forth and reading national publications about Stewards mismanagement and other markets it was abundantly clear that there was a problem at Glenwood with many of the service lines being shut down quality issues being reported other hospitals reporting issues with Glenwood.

After several months and transition of state administration for the department of health who took over soon after the January 2024 inauguration it was apartment Gelenwood and Stewart had transitioned from a series of small problems to major problems being placed on jeopardy status with the state and having their medicare and Medicaid licensures in jeopardy at the federal level. There were numerous accounts patient care

State Representative Michael Echols
300 Washington Street, Floor 2
Monroe LA 71201

was being compromised due to material shortages, no specialist care due to physicians not being paid and reports of patients being hurt or even dying because of not getting the care that they deserved or needed.

Due to all these reports of Stewart's negligence and gross malfeasance some weeks later I was able to establish a commission committee to meet and report from the community on April 9 of 2024 at the Louisiana legislature the subcommittee of health and welfare was able to meet and receive testimony from community members.

Nurse practitioners, nurses, doctors regional hospital executives from St. Francis members from the LDH or the department of health executive team all presented what the impact was of Stuart mismanagement corporate malfeasance's and noninvestment in the property in Northeast Louisiana.

That hearing was revealing and that the president or CEO of Glenwood Jo Turton arrived and testified on behalf of Glenwood and Stuart in the audience, Mr. Puddy a southeast regional vice president of steward was present as a legal council, but refused to testify. He was to come to the table but again he was scared and did not come to the table. Mr. Turton and his testimony validated that Steward was negligent as well as liable for not providing supplies, not paying vendors, not having a fiscal management and killing or maiming patients to which he admitted all these things on the record.

This testimony alone which can be found online is is reason to hold Steward liable and corporately negligent for killing and/or maiming patients in Northeast Louisiana due to the fact that Steward and greedy team of executives who stole money through whatever means possible in conjunction with medical properties trust unjustly enriched themselves versus reinvesting back in provider pay vendor payments, and patient care.

All these things have created a massive imbalance in Northeast Louisiana healthcare delivery market. I hope that this Senate panel will be willing to hold these executives these corporate raiders who work between medical properties trust as a quasi Ponzi scheme to acquire hospitals, distribute short term profits from over valuations and hold assets in a REIT thus separating ownership from operators in order to rape the healthcare delivery system and pillage the assets while holding them hostage through funny bankruptcy laws and a real estate investment trust that has no accountability to the community to hold an asset hostage. Steward and Medical Properties Trust has done this in numerous communities, asked for political bail outs and continue their ponzi like scheme. These schemes persist and I'm hopeful the SEC will investigate MPT further along with the symbiotic relationship of the CEO of Steward and MPT. These

State Representative Michael Echols
300 Washington Street, Floor 2
Monroe LA 71201

two have scheduled to loot hundreds of millions of dollars through financial relationships while leaving patients to die on the table waiting to care.

I'm here today to answer any questions to reflect on the hearing that was held on April 9, 2024 in Baton Rouge. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Michael Echols

State Representative

Monroe, West Monroe, Sterlington Louisiana