

The business model for all too many **Private Equity** firms is to buy companies, strip them of their assets, and leave them for dead. If they ever served the purpose they claim to “support and prune inefficient businesses to the benefit of the economy”, that time has long passed. Value extraction is their current game. Now they turn their attention to our health care system, through which so many dollars flow. **Real Estate Investment Trusts** can offer to buy hospital properties and lease them back to hospital administrations. Using either of these profit-making resources to shore up failing hospitals just amounts to kicking the can down the road. The biggest problem for our hospitals is the current level of reimbursement rates. Looking to the private sector for a solution is short-sighted in the extreme.

Our rural hospitals are already in financial trouble, and the larger urban ones may not be far behind. People are understandably upset about the possibility of hospitals closing in their areas. I urge you to 1) support L.D. 985 to prevent a future healthcare nightmare, and 2) look elsewhere for solutions to this problem.

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May 5, 2025