

Readers' letters

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Closing hospital would be disaster

On behalf of the 3,700 physicians in the Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association, I echo the alarm by Doctors Medical Center Board Chairman Eric Zell regarding the potential closure of that hospital.

The loss of DMC poses catastrophic consequences for tens of thousands of residents of West Contra Costa County who receive emergency and acute care services in that facility each year.

The consequences are more dire as we observe the spread of a deadly flu virus. Its closure would also trigger the loss of an entire community of dedicated physicians who would have to move.

Finally, emergency medical services studies indicate emergency patients would be transported not only across county lines but also across major Bay Area bridges, due to the loss of DMC's large emergency department.

Doctors Medical Center is threatened with closure because it does not receive sufficient funding for the care it provides to the patients it serves.

This public policy challenge should be addressed by all levels of government, with the support of our community.

Dr. Ronald Wyatt
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Wyatt is the president of Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association.