



New York City Council Hearing

**Impacts of the Maimonides Health System and NYC H+H
Merger**

Committee on Hospitals

Mitchell Katz, MD

President and Chief Executive Officer

NYC Health + Hospitals

March 2, 2026

Good morning Chairwoman Narcisse and members of the Committee on Hospitals. I am Mitch Katz, a primary care physician and the President and CEO at NYC Health + Hospitals (Health + Hospitals). I appreciate the opportunity to be here today to share information about our planned partnership with Maimonides Health (Maimonides), and discuss plainly what this partnership can mean for patients, employees, and the broader community.

I grew up in South Brooklyn, just a couple of miles from Maimonides Medical Center, so I understand its importance to the community on a deeply personal level. When I was just 10 years old, my aunt was hospitalized there. It was an experience that shaped my appreciation for the vital role that Maimonides, and hospitals broadly, play in our lives.

Hospitals are more than buildings where medical procedures take place. They are where babies are born, where families gather in moments of crisis, and where people turn for care in their most vulnerable moments. The decisions we make in these settings have lasting effects on the overall health, security and resilience of the communities we serve. NYC Health + Hospitals recognizes the weight of that responsibility, and the importance that comes with stewardship of an institution that touches so many lives. With that in mind, our priority in this merger has been to ensure that the combined system is positioned to provide consistent, high-quality care while remaining a reliable and enduring presence in the community and supporting our teams in their essential work.

The union of NYC Health + Hospitals and Maimonides Health is a natural fit. Health + Hospitals and Maimonides share a deep commitment to accessible, culturally humble care that

meets the diverse needs of New Yorkers. Working together, we can advance that shared mission while honoring the unique history and culture of Maimonides Health.

Health + Hospitals is a federation of hospitals, each guided by the unique characteristics of the neighborhoods it serves. We know that there is no single approach to caring for a diverse population, and we take pride in honoring and reflecting the strengths of each of our communities. Elmhurst Hospital and Bellevue Hospital are two excellent facilities, but you would not mistake one for the other. When you walk into Harlem Hospital, you do not think you are walking into Jacobi. By joining our system, Maimonides will have the opportunity to continue serving its community in ways that reflect its distinct identity and needs, while benefiting from the strength, resources and collaboration of a broader network. This is how we work with our existing facilities, and it is how we will partner with Maimonides.

By joining the public health care system, Maimonides will be able to offer New Yorkers expanded access to high-quality care in Brooklyn, seamless digital access to health records through MyChart, and ongoing system stability. This partnership will only deepen our commitment to serving all New Yorkers while staying true to the values and rich cultural history of Maimonides Health. Specifically, through this partnership, we will strengthen Maimonides Health to ensure that Brooklynites continue to have access to an extensive range of specialty and subspecialty care that is only provided by Maimonides in Brooklyn. Maimonides Health will also benefit from increased funding, ongoing investments and access to technology, and additional resources to support ongoing care and community engagement. By accessing these new resources, Maimonides Health will be well positioned to continue enhancing access to healthcare across Brooklyn for decades to come.

The transaction between NYC Health + Hospitals and Maimonides Health is anticipated to close by April 1, 2026. After that date, Maimonides Health will legally be part of the NYC Health + Hospitals system, and the hospitals will have their own Operating Certificates and licenses for the provision of care. After April 1, while the legal aspects of the transaction will be complete, integration work will continue with teams from both systems collaborating to ensure a smooth transition. Our focus will be on administrative enhancements, without interruptions to the provision of care.

NYC Health + Hospitals is committed to the preservation of Maimonides Health's historic cultural identity and community practices, and we will ensure these values are central as we come together. I look forward to sharing more details about how we are approaching this responsibility and how we intend to serve patients, families, and staff in the years ahead. Happy to answer any questions. Thank you.

1199SEIU

United Healthcare Workers East

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NYC Council Committee on Hospitals Hearing Testimony Impacts of the Maimonides Health and NYCH+H Merger

Good Morning Members of the City Council Hospital Committee,

First, I would like to thank the Committee on Hospitals and Chair Narcisse for holding this hearing and allowing us to speak on this merger. Maimonides Health is Brooklyn's largest healthcare system, serving over 250,000 patients annually⁽¹⁾. With three hospitals and a number of community-based sites, it is a key institution for care in this city, especially for Brooklyn residents. Not only is it an important provider of healthcare services in Brooklyn, but it is also a major employer in the borough providing thousands of jobs. Of those healthcare workers employed in the Maimo system, 1199SEIU represents about 3,500.

Maimonides Health merging with NYC Health + Hospitals will help strengthen Maimo's ability to provide healthcare services, employ New Yorkers and serve the community. The federal government recently passed a bill, H.R. 1, which will remove over \$1 trillion from the nation's healthcare system over the next 10 years. Even before HR 1, New York has failed to fully fund Medicaid, reimbursing hospitals only 70% of the cost of providing care. Joining the public health care system will support Maimonides with additional sources of funding, something that is necessary in ensuring the financial stability of a hospital of its size, serving the populations it serves. This city has seen multiple hospital closures and with the effects of H.R.1 looming over our healthcare facilities, this can help prevent additional closures and loss of healthcare access.

Continuity of care is extremely important during a transition like this. Our 1199SEIU members, along with the other hardworking, diligent healthcare workers at Maimo's facilities have all been committed to providing the best care they can for the community. There is no doubt they will continue to do so during this transition. We have worked closely with Maimonides and H+H leadership to establish a structure that will allow 1199SEIU members at Maimonides to maintain their union membership, benefits and seniority. With new financial security for the hospital, we also hope to see more emphasis on stabilizing staffing and retention and ensuring better working conditions for all frontline workers.

Maimonides Health serves a diverse population and preserving that cultural responsiveness they have upheld in the past, will be very important during this merger.

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Maimo is in a unique position that will allow them to maintain that cultural competency with the additional \$2.2 billion grant from the state to protect safety net health care in Brooklyn.

These extra funds will help them ensure they can continue to provide essential services to the populations they serve. Ensuring the workforce is protected and prioritized during the transition will also guarantee no one goes without the care they need.

Maimonides Health can retain its commitment to the communities it serves, while also benefiting from the resources and support of the larger NYC Health + Hospitals system following the completion of the merger. It will strengthen healthcare services for Brooklyn natives while expanding the access to quality care Maimo already provides.

Hospitals matter to a community, often marking central points in people's lives. They are also a fundamental part of our health systems as an instrument for care coordination and delivery. It is imperative that we maintain fully functional, fully staffed, hospitals that will keep our communities healthy and safe. This can be a significant step forward in improving healthcare delivery in Brooklyn, and the city overall, benefiting both the hospital and the community it serves.

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