



Media Statement: Fulton County Commission Meeting

Our mission is to enhance the health and wellbeing of every person we serve. The suggestion that Wellstar in any way discriminated against patients and communities of color is shameful and false. We are a diverse group of 24,000 caregivers caring for diverse communities every day across Georgia.

We are proud to be the largest provider of charity care in the state of Georgia and are among the top 10 providers nationwide, bringing expert, compassionate health services to people who need us most. Last year alone, Wellstar's uncompensated and charity care totaled \$1.2 billion.

We must set the record straight about why Wellstar had to close AMC and why we are exploring options in Augusta. In fact, our efforts to find another health system partner and work with government officials to find a solution started well before our decision was announced to close AMC in 2022. We spent more than two years trying to do so. This included direct discussions with policymakers in Fulton County, including Chairman Pitts as early as February 2020. Unfortunately, local policymakers declined to provide any support to AMC as they rightly have and do with the other safety net hospital in Atlanta.

We deeply understand and honor the important role Atlanta Medical Center played for so many community members and share the pain and loss associated with its closure. These difficult circumstances and ongoing community discussions should not give license to some politicians to attack an entire healthcare system—home to 24,000 team members and caregivers—to score cheap political points.

We will continue to invest in and partner with the communities we serve and advance our vision to deliver world-class healthcare to every person, every time.