



HCA Hospital AGM Statement (Proposal #5)

April 25, 2024

Good afternoon.

I am pleased to present this proposal for the consideration of HCA shareholders on behalf of United Church Funds. UCF helps churches and faith-based organizations grow their ministry through values-aligned investing.

Our proposal calls on HCA's Board of Directors to issue a public report detailing any known and potential risks to the Company posed by state laws that severely restrict abortions in the case of medical emergencies. The report should detail any strategies beyond litigation and legal compliance that the company may deploy to minimize or mitigate these risks.

We have filed this proposal due to our deep concern that HCA is broadly exposed to legal, reputation and financial risks that stem from the varied legal landscape restricting abortion access in the case of medical emergencies. Since *Roe v. Wade* was overturned two years ago, numerous states, where HCA has facilities, have adopted stringent laws limiting access to abortion.

Many of these laws are vaguely worded, causing medical personnel to fear legal repercussions for providing emergency abortions necessary to save the health or life of the mother. Physicians in these states can face criminal and civil prosecution and loss of licensure if they do take action to terminate a pregnancy even in cases where the pregnancy is no longer viable.

This has resulted in numerous instances of delays and denial of abortion services to patients. One of these documented instances was at HCA Florida Northwest hospital, situated between Miami and Palm Beach. The hospital was one of two that refused to treat a woman presenting with a life-threatening pregnancy condition in December 2022. Doctors said they were unable to treat the woman under Florida's abortion ban. The patient ended up miscarrying at another hospital and sustained damage from the delay that could jeopardize her future fertility.

Over a seven-month period in 2022 and 2023, researchers at the Texas Policy Evaluation Project and the University of California San Francisco collected 50 detailed cases of care that contributed to delays, worsened health outcomes, and increased the cost and logistic complexity of care. In several cases, the report said, "Patients experienced preventable complications."

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In our dialogue and correspondence with HCA, we have not been presented with any clear documentation attesting to the following:

- Training of medical personnel when emergency abortion is required to save the mother's life
- Clear protocols to be followed in an unfolding situation, including patient referrals when local providers are not capable of providing emergency abortions, and
- Clarity on how HCA will legally support medical personnel whose decisions come under challenge

The Supreme Court began hearing oral arguments yesterday to determine whether the state abortion bans are preempted by a federal guidance that obligates physicians to perform an abortion when the life or health of the mother is endangered. Regardless of how the Court rules, hospitals must be fully prepared to deal with these cases.

We are also concerned about HCA's preparedness to attract and retain medical talent if the company fails to provide additional clarity to how it is supporting doctors and patients through this evolving landscape. After Idaho's abortion ban took effect in 2022, more than 50 obstetricians – over 20% of all obstetricians in the entire state -- left Idaho. HCA then closed down its labor, delivery and neonatal intensive care units in one of its two Idaho facilities.

HCA investors call on the company to publish a clear strategy for how the company is responding to these challenges.

For these reasons, we request your support for Proposal No. 5.

Thank you.

