



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
March 5, 2018

**CONTACT:** Paige Pelonis  
(562) 429-0470

## **Assemblymember O'Donnell 'Disheartened' by Sudden 120-Day Lease Termination for Community Hospital Long Beach**

*O'Donnell plans to work with City of Long Beach and other stakeholders to consider next steps*

**(Long Beach)** – MemorialCare Health System filed a 120-day lease termination notice with the City of Long Beach on behalf of Community Hospital, thereby closing the facility on a shorter timeline than previously understood. Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell (D -Long Beach) issued the following statement:

"I am disheartened by MemorialCare's move to terminate all services earlier than indicated at Community Hospital. In my perception, the decision is clearly motivated by MemorialCare's desire to both leave the hospital and prevent other providers from coming in to serve the greater community. Community Hospital offers the only emergency room on the east side of the city. This decision will put even more pressure on other emergency rooms throughout the region and endangers the health and safety of east side residents."

In response to MemorialCare's initial announcement to cease services by the end of 2019, Assemblymember O'Donnell introduced AB 2591 to seek an extension for seismic compliance at the hospital through 2025.

"I introduced AB 2591 to give both the community and MemorialCare more time to find a lasting solution," Assemblymember O'Donnell said. "This announcement makes the effort to secure a provider for Community Hospital much more difficult. I urge stakeholders to stay engaged as we determine our next steps."

###

*Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell represents the 70<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, which includes Long Beach, Signal Hill, San Pedro and Catalina Island.*