

# Clergy Group Presses Waterbury Hospital On Services

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As Waterbury Hospital's merger and for-profit conversion nears, the latest group to step up pressure to maintain services is an association of clergy members [organized](#) under the Naugatuck Valley Project.

The group, led by Bishop Lionel French of the Gospel Tabernacle Ministries, delivered a letter Wednesday signed by 48 area clergy to the hospital and its chairman, Carl Contadini, requesting a meeting "to discuss the importance of the community benefits that Waterbury Hospital has offered to the community for many years, and our concern that they be preserved in the [event](#) of the sale of the hospital to another entity."

That "entity" is Tenet Healthcare Corp. of Texas, a for-profit, 77-hospital chain that is expected to receive state approval to take over Waterbury Hospital later this year. A bill passed by the state legislature this spring and signed by Gov. Dannel P. Malloy this month clears the way for the [transaction](#), under which Waterbury would lose its not-for-profit status.

Tenet also has agreements with Bristol, Rockville General and Manchester Memorial hospitals to take over those institutions, though those applications are not as far along. The deals have led to concern by community groups that the conversions would lead to lower levels of [services](#).

The hospitals, including Waterbury, have all said they are satisfied that protections are in place to assure that all critical services are kept in place. But no one is able to make promises because even without the mergers, the hospitals are in some cases seeing cutbacks amid [financial](#) pressure.

Nationally, studies have shown no clear evidence that conversion of not-for-profit hospitals to for-profit chain ownership has led to cuts in patient offerings.

[http://articles.courant.com/2014-06-18/business/hc-haar-waterbury-hospital-clergy-20140618\\_1\\_waterbury-hospital-not-for-profit-hospitals-carl-contadini](http://articles.courant.com/2014-06-18/business/hc-haar-waterbury-hospital-clergy-20140618_1_waterbury-hospital-not-for-profit-hospitals-carl-contadini)