

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS  
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
STATE HOUSE • BOSTON 02133

December 30, 1977

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, House Bill No. 6661, entitled, "An Act Providing for Expansion and Continued Operation of the St. John of God Hospital in the City of Boston."

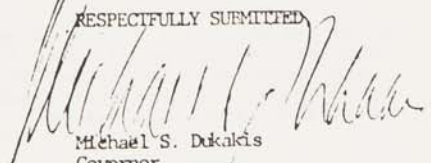
H 6661 would direct the Department of Public Health to grant a certificate of need to St. John of God Hospital for the construction of a 60-bed chronic care hospital at an estimated cost of \$4 million.

My general comments on the several bills now before me that direct the granting of various individual certificates of need are contained in my message vetoing H 2960, relating to New England Baptist Hospital. All that I had to say in that message about the effect of these bills on our effort to control health care costs applies to this bill as well.

In addition, several points deserve mention with regard to this particular bill. St. John of God Hospital has already been granted a certificate of need, but for a nursing home. Although, as everyone agrees, St. John provides a very high quality of care, the existing number of chronic disease beds in the Boston area far exceeds the need. After my veto of similar legislation was sustained last year, the department staff and the local health planning agency worked very hard with St. John to develop an alternative plan, and as a result the certificate allowing St. John to construct a 100-bed nursing home was granted. Since then, St. John has apparently changed its plans, and it is not presently clear to the department exactly how many beds and at what levels they are requesting.

I hope you will let this ongoing process take its course, rather than stepping in to impose a solution by legislative means that does not meet the health care needs of the greater Boston area. The department has more than demonstrated its good faith in the several years it has been considering St. John's situation. Your approval of this bill would be a message to all concerned that the planning process is secondary in this case to the political process.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

  
Michael S. Dukakis  
Governor  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

THE COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

ON THE ACTS AND DEEDS OF THE

COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

IN CONNECTION WITH THE

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COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

IN CONNECTION WITH THE

WALTER WINSTON