



For Immediate Release For more information: Beth Stephens (404) 525-1085
bstephens@georgiawatch.org

Georgia Watch submits public comment on Emory/WellStar merger

ATLANTA, GA March 25, 2015 – Georgia Watch [submitted comments](#) today to both Emory Healthcare and WellStar Health System expressing deep concern about the potential Emory Healthcare and WellStar Health System merger. “Provider consolidation is leading to higher prices for consumers with little to no improvement in the quality of care individuals receive,” said Beth Stephens, Georgia Watch’s Health Access Program Director, in a letter to the healthcare systems.

Georgia Watch is concerned that this public comment process lacks transparency and meaningful engagement. The process for submitting public comments has not been widely published. “We want to know what stakeholders are being engaged, and why consumer advocacy organizations are being left out of the conversation,” said Stephens.

The 45-day comment period appears to expire on March 26, 2015. However, Georgia Watch encourages consumers to share their concerns about the merger of the healthcare systems even after the comment period expires. “When mergers like this have the potential to impact so many consumers in the Atlanta market, it is important that consumers make their voices heard,” says Stephens. Comments can be submitted to WellStar Health System at communityfeedback@wellstar.org and Emory Healthcare’s Patient Relations Department at patient.relations@emoryhealthcare.org.

Founded in 2002, Georgia Watch is a nonprofit, nonpartisan 501(c)(3) organization advocating for consumers and patients in our state. Our mission is to empower and protect Georgia consumers on matters that impact their wallets and quality of life through education, advocacy and policy development. Georgia Watch’s Health Access Program (HAP) seeks to ensure access to safe, quality and affordable healthcare for all Georgians.