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Governor Andrew Cuomo

Dear Governor:

I am writing to you because I have grave concerns about the state's intention to relocate the Western New York Children's Psychiatric Center.

Closing this center and moving the children currently being treated into the Buffalo Psychiatric Center is an egregious mistake.

The Forest/Elmwood geographical location is a busy, mixed use, high trafficked urban area. It pales in comparison to the bucolic rehabilitation campus in West Seneca.

The Buffalo Psychiatric Center recorded more than 100 incidents involving a patient within the facility leaving without permission or escaping. Included in that population are six level 3 sex offenders. Not a good place for troubled children.

The service these children receive at the Western New York Children's Psychiatric Center is unparalleled. This facility has the lowest readmission rate of any psychiatric institute in the state.

We in Western New York are often befuddled by decisions made in Albany. We ask, "Why change something that works so well."

The editor of the Bee Publications, a local community newspaper has stated; "The closing of the Western New York Children's Psychiatric Center is not only a shortsighted, callous decision, it is a foolish one."

Thank you for any help you can give us on this matter.

Sincerely,

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