

September 3, 2008

The League of Women Voters of Jefferson County opposes the sale of Lutheran Medical Center (LMC) to the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health Systems (SCLHS). Our opposition is based on our position that the league supports the delivery of physical and mental health care services to **all** residents of Jefferson County. Additionally, health programs should be responsive to the needs of the people in Jefferson County and the services should be provided at convenient locations.

We oppose the sale of LMC to SCLHS because the sale of Lutheran Medical Center will result in Lutheran changing from a nonsectarian, full service community hospital to one that is owned by a Catholic organization and controlled by Catholic tenets which do not include reproductive health care and end of life choices.

LMC is the only non-profit, nonsectarian community hospital in the west Denver metro area. The residents of Jefferson County need and deserve to have a hospital that meets all their needs located within the county. Some of our citizens may have difficulty accessing health care if it is further from their homes. This problem may even result in a necessary change of physician if people are forced to drive to a hospital in a different area. Changing physicians may be an additional hardship in today's health care insurance environment.

Community First Foundation needs to honor the name of their organization and put the **needs and interests of the Jefferson County community first.**

Sincerely,

Roberta Kreutzfeld, President
Jefferson County League of Women Voters