



Teresa Fedor
State Senator, 11th District

Senate Building
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: 614.466.5204
Fedor@ohiosenate.gov

Committees

Education, *Ranking*
Joint Education Oversight Committee,
Ranking
Finance - Primary &
Secondary Education Subcommittee,
Ranking
Agriculture & Natural Resources
Government Oversight & Reform
Judiciary

Dr. Christopher Cooper
Health Science Campus
Mulford Library Building
Second Floor – 213
3000 Arlington Ave
Toledo, Ohio 43614

June 19, 2020

Dr. Christopher Cooper

During your tenure, the University of Toledo Medical Center (UTMC) has seen a mass exodus of doctors, patients, programs and profits. Your most recent faculty [evaluation](#) shows many lack confidence in your leadership and are frustrated by the secrecy surrounding your decision-making, especially on matters involving the academic affiliation agreement between ProMedica and the University of Toledo (UT) for the UT College of Medicine and Life Sciences (COMLS). The secrecy is so prevalent that all references to ProMedica and the academic affiliation agreement have been censored from your performance review in violation of the Ohio Open Records Law.

Ohio's attorney general is examining possible anti-trust violations involving the affiliation that you championed and implemented. While it is clear to many that you have spent five years dismantling UTMC, you continue to press forward with changes destined to bring about the final destruction of one of Northwest Ohio's most important state assets.

It is time for you to resign as Dean of the COMLS and chair of the University of Toledo Physicians (UTP) Board to allow for new leadership.

It seems the academic affiliation agreement on its face is anti-competitive in nature to the benefit of ProMedica. Under your leadership, it appears the eventual destruction of UTMC is imminent.

The list of how UTMC has been systematically harmed during your tenure is long and complex, and my recent press conference asking for [Gov. Mike DeWine to intervene](#) has generated more troubling examples. Many with first-hand information fear reprisals and are reluctant to come forward publicly, but they have agreed to meet with representatives of Ohio Attorney General David Yost. The Save UTMC Coalition has provided Attorney General Yost with new information, including the names of more than two dozen individuals willing to be interviewed under oath.

The more troubling allegations that have come to my attention include:

- As UTMC's top revenue-generating departments were being moved to ProMedica hospitals, Dr. Azedine Medhkour – a highly acclaimed neurosurgeon – offered to be on-call at UTMC to keep the profitable neurosurgery department housed there.

Soon after, UT's operations supervisor sent out this terse June 6, 2020, email stating that Dr. Medhhour "no longer has privileges at UTMC. He has been deactivated from HSM and PHS," meaning that Dr. Azedine Medhhour no longer had access to the patient records or the Hospital's online health management system. Neurosurgery has since been transferred to ProMedica's Toledo Hospital.

- While serving as Chairman of the UTP group and Dean of the COMLS, you convened a committee to carry out your plan to shut down UTP, an organization that serves as the faculty practice plan and provides services such as Human Resources, billing and payroll. Your plan to shutdown UTP was concocted without support from a majority of the committee you convened, and you instructed committee members to *not* inform the full UTP board of your plan. Critics of your plan – and there are many – said that your goal is to leave UTP doctors without binding contracts, causing faculty of the COMLS to be pulled out of UTMC and positioning ProMedica to cherry pick doctors who will generate the most money.
- The ProMedica cherry-picking has been under way for five years. Although the stated purpose of the affiliation agreement was to improve UT's strained finances and help its COMLS enhance its academic mission, it has allowed ProMedica to lure away UTMC physicians – including two stellar anesthesiologists – with higher salaries.

ProMedica continues to FALSELY state "the agreement did not involve the hospital." The affiliation agreement has resulted in about 85% of UTMC's residents, students, fellows and their associated faculty to be relocated from UTMC to ProMedica's Toledo Hospital. So, UTMC clearly was "involved," because it has been the exclusive source of the transferred doctors.

You crafted the affiliation agreement and are overseeing its implementation. Therefore, you are largely responsible for how it has benefitted ProMedica at the expense of UTMC and the surrounding communities.

Sincerely,



Ohio state Senator, District 11

CC:

University of Toledo Board of Trustees
Sharon Gaber, PHD., University of Toledo President