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## OUR READERS SAY

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### **Einstein Healthcare's bad behavior should not be rewarded**

A recent East Norriton supervisors' meeting made it clear that the proposed hospital at Woody's is unpopular with — and not in the best interest of — residents. The project ignores smart-growth principles and will create sprawl, consume open space and decrease property values. The effect on Norristown is also predictable and will result in declining health care access, increased unemployment, vacant properties and higher taxes. The project is a losing proposition on nearly every level, yet the mantra continues: "It's a done deal."

At a time when our country strives to reduce its dependence on foreign oil, reduce greenhouse gases, conserve open space and so on, one can only wonder how a project like this is allowed to happen. All the elements are there for our elected officials, our leaders, indeed our generation, to do the right thing, yet they don't. The fault lies in large part with Einstein Healthcare for taking such a narrow

view of the future of health care in our region.

It should be ashamed of itself for abandoning its existing patients and the many individuals, families and taxpayers who have supported Montgomery Hospital for decades. It should also be ashamed of itself for leaving Norristown when the notion of traditional, pedestrian-scaled towns is accepted as the preferred model for successful, mixed-use development, worldwide.

In the final analysis, bad behavior should not be rewarded. If Einstein gets its zoning changes and builds a hospital at Woody's, I certainly hope that public funds will not be used to bail out the environmental damage, the inadequate roads, the sagging infrastructure, the loss of open space, the public safety issues and the dearth of health care access that will result.

**Douglas Seiler**  
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