

# OPINIONS

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## Certificate of need flaws

On March 6, one of the presenters at the Kentucky Senate's Health and Welfare meeting stated that there were not enough beds in Lexington to provide private rooms to asymptomatic methicillin-resistant *staphylococcus aureus* carriers, an issue that relates to the outdated certificate of need laws in Kentucky.

If we do not have enough beds to isolate asymptomatic MRSA patients, why do we have a certificate-

of-need law that can prohibit additional hospitals from being built in needed areas?

There are too many beds in Lexington to allow a hospital to be built in Jessamine County, but apparently too few beds to protect the public from MRSA. I would not want to wake up from an operation next to someone with MRSA.

Another problem is the lack of an acute-care hospital or, at minimum, a facility that provides emergency medical treatment 24/7 in Jessamine County.

On March 2, my wife became deathly ill, and there was not an ambulance in the county. The emergency medical services personnel were very nice and offered to call an ambulance from another county.

For the second time in less than a year, I had to transport my wife in my private vehicle to a hospital in Fayette County. Both times we made it to the hospital in time to prevent death from a food-allergy reaction. Both times the local emergency clinics were closed.

We need our own acute-care hospital 24/7 in Nicholasville.

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