AG Patrick Morrisey Announces Antitrust Agreement in Cabell Huntington Hospital, St. Mary’s Medical Center Acquisition

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CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Attorney General Patrick Morrisey today announced his Office’s Antitrust Division has reached an agreement with Cabell Huntington Hospital, Inc., in its acquisition of St. Mary’s Medical Center.

The agreement, filed Friday morning in Cabell County Circuit Court, establishes a series of conditions to ensure the acquisition complies with the West Virginia Antitrust Act, the federal Sherman Antitrust Act, and all other applicable state and federal laws.

“My Office takes its antitrust responsibility very seriously,” Attorney General Morrisey said. “We strive to make sure any mergers or acquisitions preserve economic competition and do not have a negative effect on the state and its citizens.”

In November, Cabell Huntington Hospital announced an agreement to acquire St. Mary’s after the Pallottine Missionary Sisters, the Catholic-affiliated organization that had operated the hospital for 90 years, decided to end their sponsorship of the medical center.

“This acquisition represents the combination of two large and vitally important health care centers in the greater Huntington area,” Attorney General Morrisey said. “St. Mary’s Medical Center and Cabell Huntington Hospital represent the seventh and eleventh largest private employers in the state, respectively, and the top two employers in Cabell County. Serving residents of three states, the combined hospital company would represent the second-largest hospital chain in the state.”

Under the agreement, Cabell Huntington and St. Mary’s do not admit to any violations of state or federal antitrust laws. The hospitals voluntarily cooperated with the Attorney General’s Office in a good faith effort in the interest of promoting appropriate standards of conduct within the health care industry.