

19 July 2021

Abdulla Akfaly, M.D.  
Chair, Primary Care and Internal Medicine  
Mayo Clinic Health System-Northwest Wisconsin  
1400 Bellinger St.  
Eau Claire, WI 54703

Dear Dr. Akfaly,

I have received your letter of 25 June 2001 concerning my primary care physician, Dr. Steven Weiss. I am well aware that he “is no longer practicing at Mayo Clinic Health System” mainly because he wrote and published a book about the pandemic without Mayo’s prior approval. To his patients and friends, the punishment is not justified by the offense. His firing and the fact that none of his colleagues stood up for him does not reflect positively on Mayo. In my circle of friends, colleagues, and acquaintances, I have heard no one defend Mayo’s action.

I have had a number of PCPs at Mayo in my lifetime and none surpassed Dr. Weiss in competence and compassion, while two were decidedly inferior. My brother who moved here upon retirement and who died in January chose Dr. Weiss as his doctor. My brother was a Harvard M.D., taught at Harvard and at Penn before spending most of his career at The Johns Hopkins University. He admired Dr. Weiss knowledge and skills.

Now you tell me that you “are working to refer my care to another provider . . . .” I had a provider that I chose based on numerous recommendations. I am not happy having one chosen for me. Other patients of Dr. Weiss feel the same way. We are discussing alternatives. We are quite unhappy with Mayo and its greater focus on politics than competence. If we continue care at Mayo it will not be with the respect for its leadership that we once had. I ask you to do all that you can to have Dr. Weiss reinstated. The credibility of Mayo and your department is at stake.

Sincerely,

Ronald E. Mickel, Ph.D  
Professor Emeritus

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