

Transcribed testimony from Margorie Fitzgerald from 4/28/21

I am a board certified anesthesiologist and a graduate of the UofL school of medicine. For over 35 years I practiced my speciality at a large facility in Louisville and I frequently served as the Chief of Anesthesia at that facility. I am privileged to provide care for the patients at EMW clinic. I would like to explain briefly why a safety zone is so important to the health of the patients we take care of.

Imagine for a minute that you are going to the hospital for a consultation with your doctor, or you're going to the hospital for surgery; understandably, you'd be anxious. Prior to entering the building you are now facing people who are yelling at you, violating your personal space, and even obstructing the path to the building. Our patients are stalked, harassed, and threatened for over a block as they approach the building.

When the patient enters the building, they are screened for COVID symptoms and then their vital signs are taken. I routinely see the result of this intimidation in abnormal vital signs. Patient's blood pressure and heart rate are that seen in a patient having a panic attack. It is not unusual to see a healthy patient whose heart rate is greater than 120 beats-per-minute, and exhibits extreme hypertension. You can understand how this would add risk to a medical procedure.

We are asking that the dignity and safety of our patients be protected, having a safety zone would reduce health risks to patients.