

To Whom It May Concern:

As a concerned Florida citizen, I want to bring a critical situation to your attention. The problems at UF-Shands Hospital need to be addressed today -- not tomorrow or soon, but now.

While Shands has become known in this community as "The Killing Hospital," providing inadequate care to the less fortunate, I was outraged to learn of these specific problems:

1) Candi Scott, 45, of Jacksonville went to the Shands emergency room after contracting a horrible bacterial infection while swimming. She wasn't allowed to see a doctor; the attendants accused her of "faking" her condition. Ms. Scott went to another hospital, but it was too late. She died. Her death could have been prevented with immediate, adequate care.

2) A Central Florida couple has filed a \$5 million lawsuit against Shands alleging their daughter was one of 10 premature babies given HIV-infected blood in 1983.

3) Shannon McCants, a registered pharmacist at Shands, was shot to death while working when a customer brought a firearm into the pharmacy. Yet the hospital has done nothing to improve security. In fact, patients now must wait outside, sometimes for hours, to fill their prescriptions. Often, when they finally gain admittance, they are told the pharmacy has run out of the medication they need. "I came out of the pharmacy literally in tears one day," said an angry Shands patient who does not wish to be identified. "I had been standing in line more than two hours, only to get up to the window to be told, 'Sorry, we're out of your prescription.' This was the third month in a row. I had to take three buses to get there." Shands' response to this patient? She was told she had to make an appointment to see a supervisor.

I insist that you, as a government official, look into the situation at Shands. The people of this community deserve first-rate medical care. Their lives may depend on it.

Signed,

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Signature

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NAME

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ADDRESS

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CITY/STATE/ZIPCODE