

March 27, 2011

Dale Galassie, Chair  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

**RECEIVED**

JUN 02 2011

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

RE: Project #10-089 (Mercy Crystal Lake Hospital & Medical Center – Crystal Lake)

Dear Mr. Galassie:

As an employee of Sherman Hospital I am committed to providing high-quality services for our nearby communities. Sherman Health made a \$325 million investment to improve health care in the region with its replacement hospital. And it's paying off for residents of northern Kane and southern McHenry counties.

I believe that Mercy's proposed Crystal Lake hospital is unnecessary. It would create a duplication of services and would burden our already overwhelmed state and federal budgets. And, Mercy would need to increase rates to cover its expenses. That means taxpayers would have to pick up the costs.

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- The health care jobs Mercy proposes to create would not be new jobs. The permanent health care jobs would primarily be shifted from existing hospitals, weakening them, and bringing no new services into our community.

Ask the Review Board to reject Mercy's certificate of need



Mara E. Wendt  
217 Tollview ct.  
Gilberts, IL 60136

April 14, 2011

Dale Galassie, Chair  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Mr. Galassie:

I've lived in Crystal Lake almost 30 years, and I do not believe there is a need for another hospital in our region. Today the people in southern McHenry County are no more than a 15-minute drive to one of four hospitals. These include Good Sheppard in Barrington, Centegra in Woodstock, Sherman Hospital in Elgin and Centegra in Woodstock. These are each fine hospitals, so there is no lack of easy access or excellent medical care.

I go to doctors affiliated with Sherman Hospital, and I plan to stick with those doctors even if there were to be a new hospital built. My family doctor is aligned with Sherman and if I need a specialist, I just call Sherman and get a recommendation from them or my family doctor.

Sherman has a long history of listening to the community. I know this because I'm on the Sherman Family Health Center Advisory Council, which originally was formed over 30 years ago. The Sherman staff still relies on us and our opinions. We give the administrators our consumer feedback on things like services offered, hours of operation and wait times.

When Sherman opened its outstanding new hospital facility just two years ago, it was understood that Sherman would be easily able to accommodate the the area if increasing population required more hospital care. Needless to say there has been little, if any, building in the last 3 years. So, there isn't a need now or in the foreseeable future for a Mercy facility in Crystal Lake.

From a personnel standpoint, I understand from media reports that a new hospital wouldn't be likely to attract new doctors to McHenry County. Instead, it would be result in personnel moving from an existing hospital to a new one. And that kind of shifting would only hurt the existing hospitals because there would be more competition for talented staff and more expense to hire people. This would actually increase medical costs, something we do not need to encourage. I am enclosing an article from the March 22, 2010 Chicago Tribune that makes this point.

I hope you take the community's observations into account when you make this important decision in April.

Yours truly,



Kenneth Grubb  
Crystal Lake

CC: Sen. Pamela J. Althoff  
Rep. Michael W. Tryon



*Village of Cary's administrator, Cameron Davis, speaks during a public hearing at the Crystal Lake Municipal Complex on Friday March 18th, 2011. The public hearing was held for Mercy Health System who wants to open a new hospital in Crystal Lake. (Shaun Sartin/For the Chicago Tribune)*

As Mercy Health System defended its plan to build a new 128-bed hospital in Crystal Lake, competitors appear to be banding together to urge a state board to reject that and a plan by Centegra to build in Huntley.

"A new hospital in the near proximity to hospitals not fully utilized causes considerable harm," said Karen Lambert, president of Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital in Barrington, at a public hearing last week in Crystal Lake. "(It) does not create new demand, it only redistributes and dilutes the volume among existing providers. Without patients, hospitals do not have the resources available to invest for the future, cover the cost of the patients who cannot afford care, or increase the quality of its care," she said.

The hearing of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board focused on Mercy's plan for a facility at Route 31 and Three Oaks Road, while a February hearing looked at Centegra's \$233 million proposal to build at Haligus and Reed Roads. The board must approve any new medical facility and a decision on these plans could come in May. Officials of Sherman Health System, with a new hospital in Elgin, agreed the area was over-saturated.

"The proposed Mercy hospital will duplicate services, create much inefficiency, and increase staffing costs with more competition for a limited number of health care workers," said Rick Jakle, chairman of the Sherman board of directors. "The hospital will not be free to consumers and taxpayers. We will all pay for it."

Mercy's \$200 million hospital in Crystal Lake would include an emergency department and a multi-specialty clinic of 45 physicians. Building it would generate 650 to 800 construction jobs, officials said, and another 600 jobs to run the facility in the first year. "Mercy will be an economic boom as the county tries to pull out of the recession," Mercy Vice President Dan Colby said.

Others said the promise of new jobs could be misleading. "Beyond the construction jobs created during the life of such a project, which are new, the health care jobs would not be new jobs," said Rick Floyd, Sherman president and CEO. "The durable, health care jobs would primarily be shifted from existing hospitals, weakening them, and bringing no new services into our community."

Centegra, with hospitals in Woodstock and McHenry, argues that they would be hit the hardest if the new hospital were built in Crystal Lake. The Mercy application contains commitments from 40 physicians with privileges at Centegra to transfer all of their patients to a new Mercy facility. That would cost Centegra \$11.7 million annually between its two hospitals, said Jason Sciarro, president and chief operating officer.

"The lost patient volume would have a significant negative impact on the utilization of Centegra's hospital and cause a substantial financial loss to our health system," he said. Centegra also attacked Mercy's past, raising the federal corruption investigation seven years ago that torpedoed Mercy's plan for a 70-bed hospital in Crystal Lake.

Members of the state board became the target of the corruption probe in 2003-4. Mercy's plan was shot down in 2003, but the health system tried again in April 2004 and was awarded a certificate of need. In May 2005, the permit for the hospital was revoked by a judge who called the decision arbitrary and capricious. Mercy did not appeal.

Meanwhile, former Gov. Rod Blagojevich and state lawmakers revamped the board. In June 2005 it was reported that then-board Vice Chairman Stuart Levine planned to split a \$1.5 million kickback with former Blagojevich fundraiser Antoin "Tony" Rezeko from contractor Jacob Kiferbaum, who was to build the hospital.

Resurrecting all that brought a heated response from Rich Gruber, Mercy's vice president. "We were just as shocked and surprised as the other 13 million people in Illinois when this surfaced," Gruber said. "Fortunately, a couple of very bad apples were caught and indicted in this horribly terrible political web.

"In the spirit of the innuendo, federal investigators publicly stated that Mercy had no culpability in this issue — end of story," he said.

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I ask the Review Board to reject Mercy's certificate of need application.

Sincerely,



Nancy Jo Cain  
11214 Algonquin Road  
Huntley, IL 60142  
847-669-8756  
njcain@ymail.com

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RE: Project #10-089 (Mercy Crystal Lake Hospital & Medical Center – Crystal Lake)

Dear Mr. Galassie:

I am writing to let you know that I think Sherman Health is more than able to care for the communities in McHenry and Kane counties. I urge you to reject the Mercy Crystal Lake Hospital proposal.

I'm a volunteer in several different capacities with Sherman, so I get to see up close how the hospital works. Because I'm on the Family Health Center Advisory Council, the Sherman staff values my opinions and ideas about how the immediate care centers can improve. We advise the hospital about how patients are using the care centers, how patients feel about their wait times and what patients need to know once they are treated.

In addition, as a volunteer member of the patient care center team, I see that the hospital is always asking how it could improve things for the patient. I hear Sherman patient stories, such as about the comfort of receiving a handmade prayer shawl or the relief someone feels when a translator helps them convey their needs. I also see that Sherman cares for many, many people who are financially disadvantaged.

I've just never seen a more caring place for patients. I had to undergo emergency surgery at Sherman during the last year. I felt the staff went out of their way to make me as comfortable as possible. Other places have seemed very cold in comparison.

Aside from the superior people skills that Sherman offers, I know its immediate care centers continue to add services. This also helps make it unnecessary to build any new hospitals. These centers are convenient and save people a lot of time and money.

I hope you will take my observations into account and reject Mercy's proposal.

Sincerely,



Toni Sebastiano  
17N550 Widmayer Road  
Hampshire, IL 60140  
[Tonis727@hotmail.com](mailto:Tonis727@hotmail.com)

CC: Sen. Chris Lauzen  
Rep. Timothy L. Schmitz

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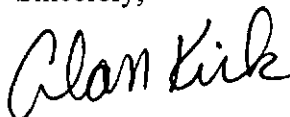
I believe that creating a new hospital in Crystal Lake would be a mistake. A new facility would mean our scarce healthcare dollars would be spread among more hospitals, hurting both new and existing facilities as each would be apportioned a smaller piece of the funding pie. That's why I encourage you to reject the Certificate of Need for Mercy Crystal Lake Hospital & Medical Center.

In addition to being a financial burden our healthcare system can't afford, a new facility would compete for the same health care workers as existing healthcare providers. Since there is already a persistent shortage of highly trained medical workers, this would only intensify the problem.

I've been a resident of Algonquin for more than 20 years, and am raising my family here. I'm pleased with the choices we have for healthcare in our area, especially in light of the \$325 million state-of-the-art Sherman Hospital we now can use. If the current hospitals want to invest more in the area, I would support expanded services at existing facilities.

Please consider the healthcare picture as a whole in the Fox Valley and reject this Mercy proposal.

Sincerely,



Alan Kirk  
619 N. Harrison St.  
Algonquin, IL 60102

CC: Sen. Pamela J. Althoff  
Rep. Michael W. Tryon



COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 300

**Harry D. Jacobs High School**

**Shelley Nacke**

Principal

2601 BUNKER HILL DRIVE ALGONQUIN, IL 60102

MAIN LINE: 847/532-6100 FAX: 847/532-6115

[www.d300.org](http://www.d300.org)

**Rick Johnson**  
Associate Principal  
Operations

**Ami Engel**  
Associate Principal  
Curriculum & Instruction

**Jaime Cadengo**  
Assistant Principal  
Dean of Students

**Francesca DiMaggio**  
Assistant Principal  
Dean of Students

**Andy Quitno**  
Assistant Principal  
Dean of Students

**Jaime VanHorn**  
Assistant Principal  
Freshman Academy

**James Hinkle**  
Attendance Supervisor

**Tom Ross**  
Athletic Director

**Linda Breen**  
Special Education  
Division Head

**Jenny Christian**  
English  
Division Head

**John Gorby**  
Science  
Division Head

**Marce Kersten**  
Social Studies  
Division Head

**Kelly Sindelar**  
Mathematics  
Division Head

**Debbie Stout**  
World Language/Fine Arts  
Division Head

**Gail VanSickle**  
Carecr and Tech Ed  
Division Head

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Dear Mr. Galassie:

I'm a lifelong resident of the Fox Valley and a teacher at Jacobs High School in Carpentersville. I am writing today to oppose the Mercy Crystal Lake Hospital plan.

As a teacher of biology and business education, I get to see firsthand the types of jobs that our young people will be pursuing. I work with placing students who are interested in healthcare careers in the internship program at Sherman Hospital. Our students can now get a glimpse of careers such as ultrasound and radiology technicians, nurse practitioners and certified nurse assistants, to name just a few. Some of these are specialties that were unheard of a generation ago. But only a large hospital can support a wide array of specialty services, and that is why I don't want to see our area oversaturated with community hospitals. A Mercy facility in Crystal Lake will not be able to offer the level of care that a regional medical center can.

We are fortunate in this area to have a newly opened Sherman Hospital that is built to serve our needs. The new facility already has set up cutting-edge affiliations that would not be viable for a smaller hospital. In addition, Sherman has been a part of the Fox Valley area for more than 100 years, and serves the entire region with four immediate care centers that are open seven days a week.

We have to move away from the "more is better" mentality of decades past. There is no shortage of health care facilities in the Fox Valley. If another hospital is built in this area, the market is destined to be oversaturated. That is why I am asking you to reject Mercy's application.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Terri Dawson  
2601 Bunker Hill  
Algonquin, IL 60102  
[Terri.dawson@d300.org](mailto:Terri.dawson@d300.org)

CC: Sen. Pamela J. Althoff  
Rep. Michael W. Tryon

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Sincerely,

PRINT NAME Keith Ramstein

SIGN NAME Keith Ramstein

STREET ADDRESS 1010 S. OAK CREEK DR



TELEPHONE NUMBER 815 - 347-1851

E-MAIL ADDRESS midnightmadness11@yahoo.com

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PRINT NAME

JULIE BAUTISTA

SIGN NAME

Julie Bautista

STREET ADDRESS

78 S. Alford Elgin IL 60123

TELEPHONE NUMBER 224-622-4626

E-MAIL ADDRESS Julie.BAUTISTA@STERMAN.OY6

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PRINT NAME

Maria Trejo

SIGN NAME

Maria Trejo

STREET ADDRESS

91 Hickory Ct Carpentersville IL

TELEPHONE NUMBER 847-426-1509

E-MAIL ADDRESS Maria.Trejo@shermanhospital.org

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PRINT NAME MARIA ZAMORA

SIGN NAME Maria Zamora

STREET ADDRESS 428 Dupage st. Elgin IL 60120

TELEPHONE NUMBER (847) 220-2535

E-MAIL ADDRESS Moria.Zamora @ Sherman Hospital  
• Org.

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PRINT NAME Jesus Crespo  
SIGN NAME Jesus Crespo  
STREET ADDRESS 3 Lynch Street



TELEPHONE NUMBER 224-238-9785

E-MAIL ADDRESS Jesus.Crespo@ShormanHospital.org

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PRINT NAME Joel Rodriguez

SIGN NAME Joel V. Rodriguez

STREET ADDRESS 943B Carriageway Elgin, IL 60120

TELEPHONE NUMBER 630-947-4053

E-MAIL ADDRESS Joel.Rodriguez@~~hospital~~shermanhospital.org

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PRINT NAME Sandra Miranda

SIGN NAME SM

STREET ADDRESS 20 Fir St Quille IL

TELEPHONE NUMBER 224-305-7090

E-MAIL ADDRESS ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Sandra.Miranda@ShermanHospital.org

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PRINT NAME Aguinaga Consuelo  
SIGN NAME Consuelo Aguinaga GA  
STREET ADDRESS 1056 Polly<sup>CT</sup>

847

TELEPHONE NUMBER 697-3274

E-MAIL ADDRESS Consuelo\_Agunaga@ShermanHospital.  
Org

March 28, 2011

Dale Galassie, Chair  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Project #10-089 (Mercy Crystal Lake Hospital & Medical Center – Crystal Lake)

Dear Mr. Galassie:

As an employee of Sherman Hospital I am committed to providing high-quality services for our nearby communities. Sherman Health made a \$325 million investment to improve health care in the region with its replacement hospital. And it's paying off for residents of northern Kane and southern McHenry counties.

I believe that Mercy's proposed Crystal Lake hospital is unnecessary. It would create a duplication of services and would burden our already overwhelmed state and federal budgets. And, Mercy would need to increase rates to cover its expenses. That means taxpayers would have to pick up the costs.

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Sincerely,

PRINT NAME

Raul Barrera

SIGN NAME

Raul B

STREET ADDRESS

2611 Mary



815-608-3020

TELEPHONE NUMBER | ~~815-608-3020~~

E-MAIL ADDRESS Raul.Barrera@ShermanHospital.org

March 28, 2011

Dale Galassie, Chair  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

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Sincerely,

PRINT NAME CHAYAN BUNYINDEE

SIGN NAME 

STREET ADDRESS 1A50 Meghan Alee Algonquin, IL 60102

TELEPHONE NUMBER 847-450-9753

E-MAIL ADDRESS rodgy.3030@hotmail.com

March 30, 2011

Dale Galassie, Chair  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

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Sincerely,



Cheryl VanderLaan  
360 Lindsay Lane  
Crystal Lake, IL 60014  
815-444-0604  
Cheryl.VanderLaan@shermanhospital.org

March 30, 2011

Dale Galassie, Chair  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
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Sincerely,



Marie Markel  
537 Shagbark Drive  
Elgin, IL 60123  
847-931-9354  
Marie.Markel@shermanhospital.org

March 30, 2011

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Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

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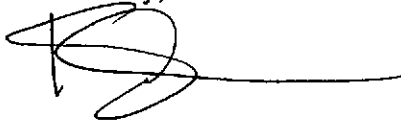
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I ask the Review Board to reject Mercy's certificate of need application.

Sincerely,



Kathy Walters  
344 Patricia Lane  
Bartlett, IL 60103  
630-830-6427  
Kathy.Walters@shermanhospital.org

March 30, 2011

Dale Galassie, Chair  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Project #10-089 (Mercy Crystal Lake Hospital & Medical Center – Crystal Lake)

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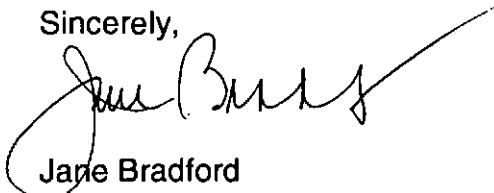
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Sincerely,



Jane Bradford  
PO Box 81  
Saunemin, IL 61769  
815-832-4923  
Jane.Bradford@shermanhospital.org

March 30, 2011

Dale Galassie, Chair  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Project #10-089 (Mercy Crystal Lake Hospital & Medical Center – Crystal Lake)

Dear Mr. Galassie:

As concerned resident of Bartlett, IL. I believe that Sherman Hospital is committed to providing high-quality services for our nearby communities. Sherman Health made a \$325 million investment to improve health care in the region with its replacement hospital. And it's paying off for residents of northern Kane and southern McHenry counties.

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Eric Walters  
344 Patricia Lane  
Bartlett, IL 60103  
630-830-6427



March 30, 2011

Dale Galassie, Chair  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Project #10-089 (Mercy Crystal Lake Hospital & Medical Center – Crystal Lake)

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James Markel  
537 Shagbark Drive  
Elgin, IL 60123  
847-931-9354

March 30, 2011

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Sincerely,



Anita Sayad  
432 Western Ave  
Bartlett, IL 60103  
630-830-3006  
Anita.Sayad@shermanhospital.org

March 25, 2011

Dale Galassie, Chair  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Project #10-089 (Mercy Crystal Lake Hospital & Medical Center – Crystal Lake)

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Sincerely,

  
Victoria Klinnert  
11613 Woodcreek Dr Apt E Huntley IL  
8478774223  
Tori.klinnert@sbcglobal.net

March 25, 2011

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525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

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Sincerely,



Ushma Lakhani  
701 Meadowview Crossing, West Chicago, IL 60185  
224-783-8686  
Ushma.lakhani@shermanhospital.org

March 30, 2011

Dale Galassic, Chair  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

**RE: Project #10-090 (Centegra Hospital – Huntley)  
Project #10-089 (Mercy Crystal Lake Hospital & Medical Center – Crystal Lake)**

Dear Mr. Galassic:

As a friend of Sherman Hospital and working on committees at Sherman's new hospital located on Randall Rd just south of I-90, I object to new beds being added to the area. They won't add jobs; they will just move them around uselessly.

- There are currently six area hospitals (including the two Centegra Hospitals) all with open hospital beds available to serve patients.
- In addition, each of the six area hospitals has urgent care centers throughout the region serving the immediate healthcare needs of the community.
- The combined cost of the two proposed new hospitals is \$450 million. These proposed new hospitals are an unnecessary expenditure of scarce healthcare dollars in a time of uncertainty. We are in a sad economic situation now. This may stimulate the economy for just a few short years while building and then it's downhill again and more empty beds.
- Sherman's new hospital represents a significant investment (\$325 million) in the healthcare needs of the entire region. Sherman's move to their new facility is replacement beds, not additional beds as are proposed by these two hospitals to an area with open beds.
- The proposed projects will impair Sherman Hospital's ability to sustain and grow in its role as a regional medical center.
- Sherman Hospital has just moved to the center of its service area, conveniently located at I-90 and Randall Road, is easily accessible to all residents in close proximity to the proposed new hospitals.
  - Sherman Hospital is conveniently located to serve the most populated part of McHenry County (south and east).
  - EMS response time is what is most critical in life-threatening situations.
  - Sherman Hospital currently receives the vast majority of ambulances from the communities surrounding the proposed hospital locations.
- Centegra and Mercy Crystal Lake projects will not add any specialty healthcare services. Patients needing advanced heart care, comprehensive cancer care, stroke care, etc., will require a regional facility like Sherman not little hospitals that have no advanced critical care. Minutes are important to life and Sherman has those amenities for the patients in this region in place. We don't need to stop off at a little hospital. Go directly to Sherman where the equipment and expertise is located close by.
- Sherman offers comprehensive specialty healthcare, including advanced cardiac care with open heart surgery and state-of-the art cardiac cath labs, a comprehensive cancer care center with radiation oncology provided by physicians from the University of Chicago Medical Center and certification as a Primary Stroke Center from the Joint Commission.
- So where would staffing come from for not only 1 new hospital but possibly 2 new hospitals? They both would be pulling staff from Sherman, Centgra, Provena St Joseph and other local hospitals as well as pulling the patients that now go to these hospitals. One or two little hospitals adding beds to the area just doesn't make sense. They are not replacing beds; they are adding unneeded beds.
- Let's use some common sense here and say "NO" to these proposals. Both proposed hospitals, Mercy Crystal Lake and Centegra Huntley, are not needed. We don't need to spend unnecessary dollars and time on studies to see the truth.

Sincerely,



Barbara Lawrence  
524 Shagbark Dr.  
Elgin, IL 60123  
bandb@foxvalley.net

**COMMITTEES:**

CRIMINAL LAW, CHAIR  
ENERGY  
JUDICIARY  
PUBLIC HEALTH



ILLINOIS STATE SENATE  
**MICHAEL NOLAND**  
STATE SENATOR • 22ND DISTRICT

M115 CAPITOL BUILDING  
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62706  
217.782.7746  
FAX: 217.782.2115  
EMAIL: SENATOR@NOLANO.ORG

TOWER BUILDING  
100 E. CHICAGO STREET  
SUITE 302  
ELGIN, IL 60120  
847.214.8864  
FAX: 847.214.8867

Dale Galassie, Chair  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Mr. Galassie,

I am the Illinois State Senator representing District 22, which includes Barrington Hills, Carpentersville, Elgin, South Elgin, Hanover Park, East Dundee, Hoffman Estates, Streamwood and Schaumburg.

In addition to proudly representing the communities of District 22, I've been a resident of Elgin for 34 years, and currently live on the city's northeast side with my wife and two children.

I am writing today as a representative and as a resident to express my opposition to the construction of the proposed Mercy hospital in Crystal Lake.

First, in its Certificate of Need application, Mercy ignores Kane County and Cook County hospitals that are just across the border from McHenry County - the omission of which speaks directly to the credibility of the proposal.

Second, McHenry County residents are sufficiently served by our network of excellent regional hospitals namely Sherman and Provena St. Joseph Hospitals in Elgin, Good Shepherd in Barrington and Alexian Brothers in Hoffman Estates. Sherman Hospital in Elgin is a regional medical center that is one of the area's top-ranked hospitals for cardiovascular care, as well as for trauma and emergency services. Provena St. Joseph, Good Shepherd and Alexian Brothers also do an outstanding job serving area residents in various specialties.

Third, Mercy says that projected growth and increased demand are reasons to build its hospital. However, the Great Recession has halted real estate development everywhere including, if not especially, in McHenry County. The return of housing and commercial development in the county and surrounding areas to pre-recessionary levels is measured not in months but years. In addition, state records show the demand for inpatient services within 30 minutes travel to the site of this proposed hospital has been stable with almost no increased utilization in any category of inpatient care from 2007 to 2009.

A final point: A significant number of people in my district rely on the safety net provided by the aforementioned health care centers. These centers offer health care for the uninsured and other vulnerable populations. Because of its location, Mercy's proposed hospital would avoid providing such care to much of this demographic.

While I generally favor the further development of health care facilities in our region, the fact is that the addition of an unnecessary, expensive new hospital in a comparatively affluent area of our state, drawing scarce health care resources from nearby economically stressed communities will only undermine our ability to care for our residents, not strengthen it.

The fact remains, this area does not nor will it anytime soon need an entirely new hospital or more hospital beds. In this era of fiscal austerity for state and local governments, I am, on behalf of my constituents, compelled to resist the expansion of unnecessary and duplicative services. I urge you to deny the applicant's request for Certificate of Need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Noland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Noland" clearly distinguishable.

Senator Michael Noland  
Illinois' 22<sup>nd</sup> District

/mjn

Cc: file

March 28, 2011

Dale Galassie, Chair  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Project #10-089 (Mercy Crystal Lake Hospital & Medical Center – Crystal Lake)

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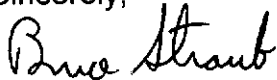
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Bruce Straub  
1405 Deep Run Road  
630-305-0076  
bstraub@wowway.com