

Thomas M. Schaltenbrand

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Mr. Mike Constantino

Supervisor, Project Review Section

PROJECT #14-043

Illinois Health Facilities & Services Board

525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor

Springfield, Illinois 62761

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SEP 25 2014

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Monday, September 22, 2014

Dear Mr. Constantino,

I am a Respiratory Care Practitioner and since my marriage to my wife Melanie in 1992 have been a lifelong resident of Belleville Illinois. We both have worked at St. Elizabeth's in our career. We left only to advance our professional careers. I currently am a Business Manager of Therapy Services at a large hospital in the City of St. Louis. I have very fond memories of more than ten years working at St. Elizabeth's and nearly 8 years in a sister facility in Breese Illinois. I can remember in my orientation to St. Elizabeth's in 1992 a story told by one of the dedicated nuns that worked there. In it she referenced St. Elizabeth of Hungary. She is associated with the Third Order of St. Francis. She lived a life of caring for the poor and sick. I truly embraced this high-ideal in my career that remains with me to this day. St. Elizabeth's Hospital has a presence in Belleville and has had a long tradition of caring for poor and under represented populations. It is my belief (I am and MBA as well) that this is purely a business based decision to improve the hospital's case-mix. This is the wrong way to improve the financial standing. In my facility we have attracted patients by expanding to surrounding areas and improving the physical plant in a way to attract those with more means all the while still caring for the underserved of St. Louis. O'Fallon's needs are already being addressed by a local hospital (Memorial) and in their case they are not closing the main facility. They are merely creating a small satellite operation. If St. Elizabeth's is permitted to move, Belleville, East St. Louis and surrounding communities to the South and East will not have a conveniently located health institution to care for it's residents.

Please consider what a profound loss St. Elizabeth's relocating will have on the citizens of Belleville, East St. Louis and the many neighboring small towns will be. I will happily speak to you personally if you are interested.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas M. Schaltenbrand MBA, RRCP

Mr. Mike Constantino
Supervisor, Project Review Section
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
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Springfield, IL 62761

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
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Re: Project Application #14-043 (St. Elizabeth's O'Fallon Location Proposal)

To Mr. Constantino:

I'm writing as a long-time employee of and friend in the Belleville area, which has helped me to understand the needs and concerns of the community here. My opposition to St. Elizabeth's move is two-fold, focusing on both the social and medical needs of both Belleville and O'Fallon, but also the financial and employment side of the debate.

Currently, having St. Elizabeth's established in a central location of downtown Belleville creates access to healthcare for medically underserved patients that may have transportation and resource limitations. Related, having a large healthcare facility removed from this area would create a strain on the remaining facility - Memorial Hospital's Belleville location. This burden is caused both by decreased access in this community and the fact that St. Elizabeth's would have less beds and services offered (ie. Pediatrics, ICU, obstetrics, and rehabilitation) at their new place of operation.

O'Fallon and Shiloh, while still growing townships in need of excellent amenities (just as Belleville is), would be over crowded by duplication in services, as Memorial East is constructing a facility only two miles from this proposed St. Elizabeth's site. This also causes concern for both hospitals by having patients choose between St. Elizabeth's or Memorial in this area, which could lead to decreases in actual services rendered that originally projected (which were based on the idea that only one facility would be serving that particular area). This has the potential to lead to a decrease in revenue, and in turn, possibly individuals employed and services provided if there is a less stable need.

Overall, I believe that each facility mentioned, St. Elizabeth's in downtown Belleville, Memorial Hospital in Belleville, and Memorial East in Shiloh, serve specific demographic areas and patients, and do it well as established today. Moving St. Elizabeth's out of a community that has built it and sustained its growth would be detrimental to the Belleville area, but also, in the long-run, to O'Fallon, which does not necessarily have the same needs at this time.

Thank you for your time and consideration with a matter that has become very significant both in my work and personal lives.

Sincerely,

Rebecca S. Sprague

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
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Dear Ms. Courtney Avery,

I am a member of Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. At one of the dinners Mr. Turner spoke on St. Elizabeths Hospital move from Belleville, Ill. application (#14-043) to O'Fallon, Ill. It will strain capacity at Memorial not only because they are leaving the community but they are cutting beds and services for area patients. The O'Fallon site is a duplication of services, located approximately 2 miles from Memorial East slated to admit its first patient in early 2016.

I am against this location completely. Please do not approve project application number (#14-043).

Sincerely,
Lais D. Scheske