

October 23, 2014

Project #14-043

Mr. Mike Constantino
Supervisor, Project Review Section
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Board
525 Jefferson St. 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

CC: Courtney Avery

Dear Mr. Constantino,

I am writing this letter in opposition to the proposed move of St. Elizabeth's Hospital from Belleville to O'Fallon. Thank you for the opportunity to express my feelings on this matter. My name is Dr. Phil Silsby, -a retired educator who presently serves as an Alderman of the Ward where St. Elizabeth's Hospital is currently located. Furthermore, I am writing as a citizen of Belleville, a family member of someone who has used the current facility, and as a community leader. As you can see I have a vested interest in seeing St. Elizabeth Hospital stay in its current location.

This hospital has been an important part of this community for a very long time. It has served our community and surrounding communities with exceptional care during times of direst. My mother was a patient in the hospital many times. Her condition at times was critical. Meaning that traveling to the closest hospital was necessary in order to care for her immediate needs. Had St. Elizabeth's not been located where they are, the extra travel could have been a life or death situation.

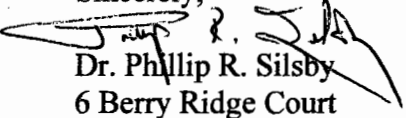
Furthermore, I have a son-in-law who lives close to the hospital and needed the emergency room for an illness that was quite alarming. His ability to get to the hospital in a matter of minutes allowed him to be treated quickly and without complications. So you can see that the location of St. Elizabeth's has been important care facility to me and my family.

In addition, as the Alderman of the Ward where St. Elizabeth's Hospital is located, I have a great concern for the individuals in my ward who have easy access to the hospital because of its current location. Many of these individuals have limited transportation. Seven miles to the new location would provide an extreme hardship to these individuals.

I am not against progress and a new facility, but I do firmly believe this can be achieved at the current location. Many institutions in our area especially Belleville have taken outdated facilities and turned them into functioning and up-to-date structures that bring a sense of pride to their operation and the city of Belleville. As a community leader, I am quite willing to help St. Elizabeth's secure and maintain a state-of-the hospital at its current location.

Considering all of these factors mentioned above, I urge the Health Facilities & Services Review Board to DENY St. Elizabeth's Hospital a certificate of need for a new facility in O'Fallon, Illinois. Thank you for your time and consideration of these heartfelt thoughts.

Sincerely,



Dr. Phillip R. Silsby
6 Berry Ridge Court
Belleville, IL 622120