

RECEIVED

NOV 07 2014

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

November 4, 2014

Dear Mr. Mike Constantino,

I am writing to voice my opinion regarding the proposed move by St Elizabeth's Hospital to O'Fallon IL.

Referencing project # 14-043 .

I am 60 years old, my mother is 88 years old. My mother retired from STE after a long career as an RN, most recently as Nurse Manager of Obstetrics, she worked nearly 40 years in the same facility, same floor.

I worked as an RN for 37 years, last 10 of which I was the nurse manager of Obstetrics dept. until my termination May 2010, when the administration changed for the 4th time in as many years and it was determined that the near failure of the hospital was attributed to long term employees. Eliminate the old, bring in the new.

This pattern was the first to emerge by the HSHS system who no longer valued their employees or their community links nor did they respect "hallowed ground". The following patterns quickly became apparent as the hospital struggled to gain back the patients who had lost faith in the systems ability or willingness to provide quality care to all. By allowing STE to build a new facility less than 2 miles from Memorials new facility is ludicrous and simply a duplication of services.

WHY CAN'T WE HAVE 1 NEW JOINT (STE and MEMORIAL) FACILITY IN O'FALLON IL? maintaining the current facilities to serve the underserved.

Where's the Need? Illinois' Certificate of Need (CON) process makes sure that everyone has access to healthcare and that some communities are not serviced more than others. The O'Fallon and surrounding communities are already well served with a new hospital already under construction in Shiloh.

Negative Economic Impact: Moving 1,200 jobs out of the city will be extremely detrimental not only to Belleville but also the surrounding communities.

Minutes Matter in Saving Lives: EMS – police and fire – will now face longer travel time. Residents south and west of Belleville such as those in Smithton and East St. Louis would now be even further from a hospital.

2 ER's: Two-thirds of all inpatients at Belleville hospitals begin their care in the Emergency Room. Belleville must have two Emergency Rooms. Belleville needs St. Elizabeth's and access the healthcare close to home. We cannot lose 200 beds. Memorial Hospital does not have

enough beds to handle the need in our community.

A move to O'Fallon is a move away from the community that has supported St. E's for more than 140 years. Businesses and restaurants have worked hard to establish in our downtown and will now be left struggling.

We don't want another vacant building. Doctor's offices aren't enough to leave behind. A strong healthcare network + good schools + a variety of places to worship = vibrant and economically strong community

Thank you for consideration!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret M Hoffmann". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Margaret" written in a larger, more prominent style than the last name "Hoffmann".

Sincerely,

Margaret M Hoffmann

124 Gebhardt Lk Rd.

Swansea, Il. 62226