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HEALTH FACILITIES & SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

February 11, 2016

Courtney Avery, Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

535 West Jefferson St. (2nd Floor)

Springfield, IL. 62761

Dear Ms. Avery:

As a licensed Professional Realtor in the area, we desperately need to keep St. James Hospital open and all of the plans they have approved.

Our area has been hit hard by the current down turn in the economy, and closing St. James would be a tremendos blow to everyone in the South Suburbs.

Our church has a food pantry in Matteson, about 4 miles west of St. James, and in the last year has grown from serving 20 patrons a week, to 65 patrons a week. This is funded entirely by donations from our congregation.

If St. James were to close, we would have another serious problem with not only health care, but with unemployment. I don't know how many employees St. James has, but I'm sure it is well over 100.

Please take this issue very seriously as we really don't need another thing to disappear from our area.

**Blessings** 

Kay Meyer