

18-042

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January 7, 2019

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Administrator Courtney Avery
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Ms. Avery:

On behalf of the Tri-State Health Care Purchasing Coalition, (TSHCPC), we support the Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center. The TSHCPC is a non-for-profit corporation dedicated to improving health outcomes and healthcare choices available in west-central Illinois, northeast Missouri and southeast Iowa (the "Tri-State Area").

Our mission is to ensure employers and their employees have access to high quality healthcare options at an affordable cost, by stimulating price and service competition among healthcare providers, and insurers, and by establishing common healthcare purchasing criteria for employers based on quality, access and cost. We also focus to improve the delivery of medical services and to eliminate wasteful or abusive practices.

Local employers share with us regularly that the inpatient and outpatient surgery rates in Quincy, IL area are consistently, and significantly higher than if care is received in Springfield, IL, St. Louis, MO or Columbia, MO. Oftentimes, employers in our community encourage employees to consider lower cost, high quality options, in other communities. While employers want to support healthcare services locally, the cost differential is so significant it makes business sense to encourage outmigration for surgeries and imaging to lower cost facilities in the communities noted above.

Over the past three years, the Quincy Medical Group executive staff has worked closely with the coalition to better understand how they may support employers and the community. Employers and employees in our community have expressed their desire for more choice when



selecting a healthcare facility; having more than one choice generates market competition to improve cost and enhances healthcare quality.

The Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center will address our community's need as an affordable alternative for outpatient surgeries and other ancillary services, along with the expansion of services not currently available in an ambulatory setting. The ASC facility fees will be provided at a reduced rate representing a savings of 30%, or more, than the current facility fees in our community.

Because we support Quincy Medical Group's Surgery Center, does not mean that we don't support the Blessing Health System, because we do; we support both organizations. We are concerned about the future healthcare needs of the baby boomers, the overall aging population of our community, and the healthcare needs of the employers. Competitively priced, high-quality healthcare is essential for the livelihood of local employers, in attracting new employees, as well as in retaining their current workforce. All employers live in a competitive world and, as a coalition that represents the business community, we believe that the medical providers should have to live in this competitive arena as well.

We sincerely hope you will approve the Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center (project #18-042) Certificate of Need. We trust this additional health care option for health care users is a positive and much needed opportunity for everyone, which will enhance growth and prosperity in our community.

Sincerely,

Beverly Helkey
Executive Director