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Ms Courtney R. Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson 2nd floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Re: Opposition to CON 18-042 Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy,
Illinois

Dear Ms Avery,

My name is Gerry Pickle, I am a retired deputy sheriff who volunteers at Blessing Hospital. I have volunteered for the hospital for over 5 years. During my career in Law Enforcement I witnessed many times when Blessing would assist those in need and assisted with obtaining necessary medical supplies for indigent residents in our community. As a volunteer I have witnessed many times benevolent Blessing Hospital is when patients are unable to afford services. I oppose the above referenced CON project for the following reasons:

- The QMG proposal is a duplication of services. Blessing and QMG already offer an outpatient surgery center on the campus of QMG. Blessing owns the service while QMG manages it. This has been a successful arrangement for more than 10 years. Blessing would have no role in the proposed center and a second outpatient center is not needed.
- The QMG proposal would damage the Safety Net and Community Benefit program and services: Much of the revenue Blessing generates from the outpatient surgery center is used to fulfill its not-for-profit mission of providing Safety Net services to the region. These services included behavioral health care and trauma care and other related health care services to the uninsured, Medicaid and other vulnerable populations. This safety net is vital to the health of our community. Opening a second surgery center would result in a loss to the current surgery center of nearly 12,000 cases and revenue of \$25-41 million.
Unity Point, Quincy Medical Group's Des Moines, Iowa based business

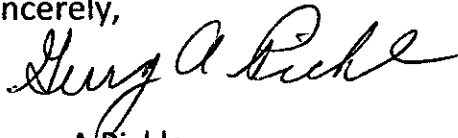
partner, would be 40 percent owner of the proposed surgery center. Therefore, a portion of the profits from the proposed center will leave the Quincy area.

- The QMG proposal would cost jobs. Blessing could lose approximately 400 jobs - 12 percent of the employee body - through a loss of a significant portion of it's outpatient surgery business.
- What is in the communities' best interest is for Blessing and QMG to continue cooperation in the delivery of key services. It has been successful with the current outpatient surgery center and with the Cancer Center. Blessing wants to continue to work with QMG, not be put in a position to work against them to improve the health of our community.

It is my desire to see QMG and Blessing to continue to work together to deliver key health services to this community and to find new ways to meet the needs of this community.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities Services Review Board deny the CON application 18-042.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerry A. Pickle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gerry" being more prominent.

Gerry A Pickle