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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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

Opposition to Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am Pat Holbrook and I am writing as a mother of a cancer patient who has recently died. I am opposed to the CON 18-042 project for many of the same reasons that you have heard from Blessing leadership however, I would like to share my opposition from a patient/family perspective.

My daughter was diagnosed with Stage 4 small cell cancer last April. She lived in Springfield IL. She was not married and was 29 years old. We chose to bring her to home to Quincy IL for treatment. We wanted to have her home and felt that having her here where family and friends could be as involved as possible was integral to her treatment plan. We trusted that the doctors and services she could receive here in Quincy would be as good as any that she may have at any other institution. At the time, I had no idea that the Cancer physicians at the Blessing Cancer Center were QMG affiliated. We heard that they had some of the best and she would be treated at the Blessing Hospital facility if needed. We trusted that the relationship between the two entities would have her best interest in mind. Unfortunately, the journey was a short one and our daughter died on June 29, less than 3 months later. What we encountered was a whirlwind of tests, bad news, a myriad of medicines, treatments and a cancer that progressed rapidly.

Looking back afterwards I do believe that there is a significant difference between the non for profit attitude and the for profit attitude in treating patients. As you could imagine, I would have done anything to save our daughter's life but it was not to be. The doctor and I discussed numerous times, we did not want treatment to make her sicker but to be prescribed only if there was a real chance to improve the outcome. We were new to cancer and definitely not the experts at the time but we became well versed. Wisdom comes at a price. We have learned about opioids, chemotherapy, constipation, loss of hair and all the trials that go with available cancer treatments. This is not the way to spend your final days. Allison was too sick to fight for herself and relied on us to manage the paperwork, the appointments and the medicines.

Over 600,000 dollars were spent in less than 3 months on her care. I do believe in my heart that the QMG was treating her for profit when they as the true experts knew there was little hope. Why am I telling you all this? I am afraid if this CON is approved and the money spent on creating another surgery center will not prove to be patient oriented but financially oriented. Patients and families rely on the physicians to be physicians and physicians only. This seems to have created an environment otherwise in my opinion for QMG who is looking at profits first. Are we creating a surgery center that will require more surgeries, more treatments, more visits to the doctors to pay for it? Will they be overworking the doctors, nurses

and technicians ? This is conjecture, but a true concern. Thank you for listening to me and hearing my opinion.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny the Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat Holbrook", written over the word "Respectfully,".

Pat Holbrook

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