

January 31, 2019

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

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Ms. Avery,

I'm writing today to voice support for the Quincy Medical Group Ambulatory Surgery Treatment Center (ASTC), project 18-042. In the interest of full disclosure, I am an employee of Quincy Medical Group, in a non-medical field, but this letter today is written in my capacity as a citizen of Quincy and not in any way as a representative, implied or otherwise, of QMG.

Following the public hearing held in Quincy last week, I feel there is a disturbing trend that has been presented in the opposition that I believe your board should (and I trust will) take in to account when rendering their decision to issue this certificate of need. First and foremost, while reviewing the information on the HFSRB website, it appears the vast majority of opposition, both written and verbal, stems from one source. Other community sources, from businesses to local government to regional economic development agencies, have notified you of their support for this project. I have difficulty believing that only one organization, out of this entire community, has the clear vision to see risk where others do not.

Secondly, one of the chief complaints of the opposition to the project is the potential job loss to a business competitor of Quincy Medical Group. This feels like a dishonest tactic meant more to scare the public into opposing this project more than swaying your board. Other business entities don't make expansion decisions based on the impact it would have on their competitors, and that's what it feels like is being asked of by those opposing this project.

Another point brought up in opposition is the "duplication of services," as if this is a negative for the community. In the health industry, having additional facilities available seems logical. If you have five beds and three patients on a Monday, would a request to add five more beds be deemed duplication of services? What about on Tuesday, when the number of patients changes to eight? Even if the numbers of 50% capacity, as presented, are more accurate than Mr. Ralph Weber's detailed breakdown of hours of service, presented in his written testimony, that 50% may be today, but Quincy Medical Group is planning for tomorrow.

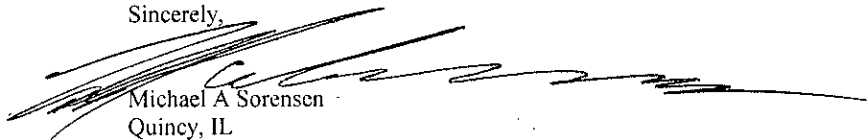
The final point I would like to address is the Unity Point connection. Unity Point's connection to QMG was reported in the original filing by Quincy Medical Group because it is factual and required. But this information is being taken out of context, again (in my opinion) in an effort to sway public opinion against this project. This was addressed by QMG's CEO Carol Brockmiller as well as others, clearly stating that Unity Point would not be investing in this new ASTC, but this message seems to be drowned out by the repletion from the opposition.

In closing, I would like to say that I don't believe tactics used to attempt to sway the public would have the same impact on your HFSR Board. But I do think adding these thoughts to the public record may be beneficial to some who may have only received one side of the story.

I believe this Certificate should be awarded to fill the needs of the community by creating additional facilities that can serve the medical needs of Quincy and the surrounding areas. The business impact will be determined by those very same patients when they make their own choice on which facility to use for their services in the future, as it should be. Attempts to stifle patient choice through this process as well as other public relations means seems less than beneficial – and perhaps even detrimental – to the well-being of patients in this service area.

Thank you for your time and your work on this CoN request.

Sincerely,



Michael A Sorensen
Quincy, IL