

January 31, 2019

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FEB 06 2019

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

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing this letter as a concerned Blessing Physician Services employee. I am been working to improve the health of the Quincy community for 15 years as an Employer Services Nurse Practitioner. I oppose the above-referenced CON project which is proposed by Quincy Medical Group (QMG). I was previously employed by the Unity Point/Iowa Health System when I lived in central Iowa. I was a staff nurse for eight years in the Younkers Rehabilitation Center. I left the organization as it started to expand by first purchasing small local hospitals and clinics. It was obvious the organization was only interested in profit.

I have three points of concern/opposition to QMG's outpatient Surgery Center.

1. The QMG proposal is a duplication of services. Blessing and QMG already offer an outpatient surgery center on the QMG campus. Blessing owns the service and QMG manages it. This has been a successful arrangement for more than 10 years now. Blessing would have no role in the proposed center. A second outpatient surgery center is not needed.
2. Opening of a second surgery center would cost jobs. Blessing Health System could lose approximately 400 jobs, 12 percent of the employee body, through the loss of a significant portion of our outpatient surgery business.
3. Much of the revenue Blessing generates from outpatient surgery is used to fulfill its not-for-profit mission of providing Safety Net services to the region. These Safety Net services include behavioral health care and trauma care. The Institute of Medicine defines the health care safety net as those providers who organize and deliver a significant level of health care and other related services to uninsured, Medicaid, and other vulnerable populations. The health care safety net is vital to the health of our communities and Blessing is the only provider in the region who offers these critical services. Insurance reimbursement does not provide adequate support for the delivery of inpatient behavioral medicine and trauma care. 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. A significant portion of that revenue is needed by the community to keep Safety Net services operational

Additionally, as a non-profit healthcare provider, Blessing provides financial support to the education of healthcare professionals (*Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health*

Sciences and the SIU Family Medicine Residency Program, an award-winning program that provides specialty training to new family physicians); and charity care to those in need of healthcare, regardless of their ability to pay. While these are not Safety Net services, these are important community benefit investments, programs that cannot sustain themselves financially and rely on Blessing's support. The loss of outpatient surgery revenue threatens these and other community benefit programs.

Blessing and QMG need to continue cooperation in the delivery of these key services. Together, we have been successful with the current outpatient surgery center. The Cancer Center that is located within Blessing Hospital is another cooperation between Blessing and QMG that provides services to the community within the Tri-State Area. Blessing wants to continue working with QMG, not be put into a position to work against them in improving the health of our community. I am asking the IL Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042 which is Quincy Medical Group's second attempt to operate an outpatient Surgery Center.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brenda Ellingson APRN-BC". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the last name "Ellingson" being more prominent.

Brenda Ellingson, APRN-BC, FNP-C

1/25/2019

Ms. Courtney R. Avery

Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

525 W Jefferson, 2nd floor

Springfield, IL 62761

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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

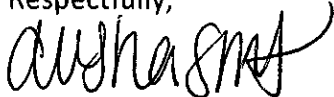
Dear Ms. Avery,

I have worked for Blessing Health System since September 5th 2017. I work in recruitment in the human resources department. I see day in and day out the struggle it is to recruit for hard to fill positions, most being surgical positions. I would like to encourage the review board to oppose the Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center.

Blessing Health System has had surgical positions open for over a year now. The community wouldn't benefit by Blessing losing what little Surgeons, surg. Techs, etc. that we currently have. It's shown that Blessing Health System is one of the few Hospitals in our area that have the level of behavioral departments we have. Our Behavioral departments count on the revenue from our inpatient and outpatient surgeries. I would also like to point out the amount of money Blessing gives back to the community compared to Quincy Medical Group. Blessing invest in our future and sends hundreds of nurses and radiology techs to school. Those nurses and techs will be taking care of our community for years to come.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Board deny CON application 18-042. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Alisha Smith

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

2/5/19

Mrs. Courtney R. Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Board
525 West Jefferson, 2nd floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Opposition con 18-042, Quincy Medical Group
Surgery Center in Quincy, IL.

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am an employee with Blessing Hospital
in Quincy IL.

I respectfully express my opposition to
Quincy Medical Group opening a Surgery
Center in the old Bergner's building located
in the Quincy Mall.

Not only is this a duplicate of services
already offered by Blessing, it will drive
up costs to patients and will take away
valuable benefits offered to the community.

I am asking that the Health Facilities
and Services Review Board deny con
application 18-042.

Thank you -

Lisa McCullough CMA
Lisa McCullough

January 30, 2019

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Ms. Courtney R. Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62760

RE: Opposition to CON 18-042/Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center, Quincy, Illinois

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Janis Wenger. I am writing to oppose CON 18-042.

I have been an employee of Blessing Health Services for ten years. In that time I have seen many changes. One thing I have noticed is the increased lack of cooperation between Quincy Medical Group and Blessing Health Services since QMG's affiliation with Iowa Health Systems. I feel this is not the best way to serve our patients.

The loss of jobs concerns me greatly. I am 58 years old and would like to continue my years until retirement at my current employment. They are estimating a loss of almost 400 jobs and 12% of our workforce. This will affect a great deal of families and the economy.

The duplication of services is something I do not understand. Quincy Medical Group built a surgery center right next to their main campus and was unable to manage it financially so Blessing Health Services purchased it and they have been managing it together successfully for ten years. The Cancer Center is another example of shared services. It was built on Blessing Hospital's campus and run by Quincy Medical Group. This would be another duplication of services. I find it odd why they would want to travel clear across town to do surgery when the current is so convenient to their offices.

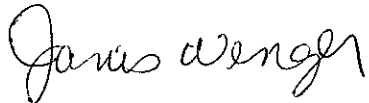
Much of the revenue that Blessing generates is used to fulfill its not-for-profit mission of providing safety-net services in the form of behavioral health and trauma. This is vital to the health of our community. With the projected loss of income, this will be a devastating blow to our community. Since 40% of Quincy Medical Group is owned by Iowa Health Systems, not all their revenue will stay in our community.

I feel that it is in the best interest of the health of the citizens of Quincy and the surrounding communities for Quincy Medical Group and Blessing Hospital to see a cooperation between the two facilities rather than more division.

I, therefore, ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON 18-042.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janis Wenger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Janis Wenger
12381 Scotts Mill Rd
Rushville, IL 62681