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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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February 7, 2019

Ms. Courtney Avery
Executive Director
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: CON Application #18-042

Dear Ms. Avery:

A public hearing on this CON application was held on January 24, 2019, and a spirited local discussion has ensued regarding the potential benefits and negative impacts of this proposed second surgery center in Quincy. Proponents argue that this new facility would result in increased competition and price reductions for involved procedures, and would benefit the local community, among other ways, through a repurposing of the Quincy Mall. Opponents dispute the suggested cost-savings, and argue that this new facility will duplicate services, result in significant permanent revenue and job loss for the existing hospital and surgery center, and threaten the continued availability of safety net and critical access services. Of course, weighing these divergent viewpoints requires the sort of technical expertise possessed by the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board ("Review Board") staff. It is important that the Review Board get this right, given the long-term implications.

Locally in Quincy, public sentiment is divided. As a reflection of that divided sentiment, and because I represent both the proponents and opponents, I personally wish to remain neutral. That said, I do ask that the Review Board very carefully weigh any adverse impacts of this project.

The applicant and the opponent health system are both highly respected entities in the Quincy community. They have worked together for years. If they could somehow find a way to collaborate now, a joint venture or partnership may be the best for all concerned. In that regard, I note that the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act allows the Review Board to consider the "availability of facilities which may serve as alternatives or substitutes" to a proposed project ((20 ILCS 3960/12(4)(d)), and that the applicable regulations promote "[p]ursuing a joint venture or similar arrangement with one or more providers or entities to meet all or a portion of the project's intended purpose." (77 Ill.Admin.Code 1110.110(d)(1)).

Thank you for taking my thoughts into consideration.

Sincerely

Randy E. Frese

Randy E. Frese
State Representative