



April 9, 2019

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62762

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Re: Ophthalmology Surgery Center of Illinois, Itasca (Project No. 18-047)

Dear Ms. Avery,

Please accept this letter as an expression of my opposition to the proposed **Project No. 18-047**. Contrary to the assertion in the Application for Permit, the proposed surgery center will have a devastating economic impact on the Midwest Center for Day Surgery. Dr. Kevin Kovach from The Kovach Eye Center has been on our surgery center's medical staff since 2009.

For the last 10 years Midwest Center for Day Surgery has enthusiastically supported and invested in all of Dr. Kovach's new ventures and surgical procedures. When he expanded his scope of practice in February 2016 by bringing on a retinal specialist, the surgery center invested \$125k in the specialized equipment required for these procedures. The center has purchased three microscopes at his request with 2 in the past year totaling over \$120K. All of these and other capital equipment expenditures directly contributed to Dr. Kovach's growing and broadening the scope of his ophthalmology practice.

Our patient satisfaction results validate that Dr. Kovach's patients are extremely satisfied with their experience at Midwest Center for Day Surgery, especially with our talented and specialized ophthalmology nursing staff, and nearly all return to our surgery center.

As a result of our unflagging support of his practice, the Kovach Eye Institute surgical case volume at Midwest Center for Day Surgery during the last five years has grown to represent 34% of our total case volume. Withdrawing this volume will create a huge void in the utilization of the surgery center which will be difficult to replace as our service area is already saturated with ASTCs. An additional consequence of the loss of this volume would be the need to reduce staff hours and layoff FTEs.

Midwest Center for Day Surgery has substantial capacity to accommodate additional growth in the Kovach Eye Institute practice and we have continually worked with Dr. Kovach to maximize his operating experience and efficiencies.

I respectfully request the Board Members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review board to deny this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anshu Chawla", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Anshu Chawla, MD
Board President, Midwest Center for Day Surgery