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Randy E. Frese

State Representative • 94th District

RECEIVED

JUL 25 2019

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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

Re: Support for CON of Blessing Hospital /
Relocation and Modernization of Existing Surgery Center

Dear Ms. Avery:

I represent Quincy and its surrounding areas as Illinois State Representative of the 94th District, and wish to share my support for the Certificate of Need ("CON") application filed by Blessing Hospital to allow for the relocation and modernization of its existing ambulatory surgical treatment center in Quincy, Illinois.

In CON Application 18-042, the Review Board approved QMG's application for a new surgery center in Quincy, embracing "competition" over "collaboration" in our local surgery center market. I wish QMG success in this venture. Approval of the relocation/modernization CON for Blessing will level the playing field, in this new era of competition, reflecting both fundamental fairness and common sense. Going forward, it is hard to imagine how the existing Blessing ASTC could effectively compete as a tenant in a building owned by its now-competitor, and in an older facility that needs updating. Both surgery centers deserve to thrive.

The Blessing CON application calls merely for the modernization of existing ORs and patient areas, adding no additional surgical capacity. It also represents a less costly and more efficient alternative for the existing ASTC, in comparison to an indefinite lease arrangement, and will save Blessing significant sums over time. Approval of this relocation/modernization will enable Blessing's not-for-profit ownership of the ASTC building, which will make the facility a community asset.

I hope that the Review Board will give appropriate consideration of my support for this CON application, which I suggest is warranted for the sake of both competitive fairness and improved health care.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy E. Frese".

Randy Frese
Illinois State Representative
94th Legislative District