



Clinton County Rural Health

Affiliated with HSHS Medical Group

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

November 8, 2019

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62702

Re: Project #19-043
Metroeast Endoscopic Surgery Center

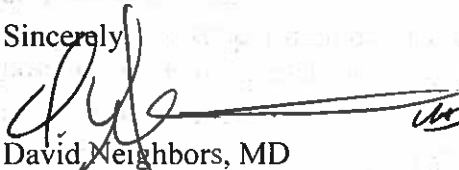
Dear Ms. Avery:

I recently learned of Dr. Shakeel Ahmed's proposal to add orthopedic surgery services to the Metroeast Endoscopic Surgery Center located in Fairview Heights and would like to oppose the proposal for several reasons. I am an internal medicine/pediatrician who specializes in Sports Medicine. As such, I treat quite a few injuries that require consultation and/or treatment by an orthopedic surgeon.

HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital has an excellent orthopedics service line with physicians and surgical staff who are highly trained and able to care for those I send to them. Many of my patients live in the immediate vicinity of the hospital and being able to care for their needs, close to their homes and families, is very important. Opening an ambulatory surgery center in Fairview Heights could cause a reduction in services offered at the local hospital due to increased outmigration of patients. With adequate outpatient surgical services already in the community, there is no need to add beds which will oversaturate the market.

It is my opinion that the addition of orthopedic surgical rooms would eventually degrade the market and remove services for individuals in their local community. As a physician, I know that patients recover more quickly when they can be close to or within their own home. I would encourage the board to consider the potential impact on patients in these surrounding areas and deny the proposed addition of surgical specialties at Metroeast Endoscopic Surgery Center.

Sincerely,



David Neighbors, MD