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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

November 18, 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 am writing this letter to oppose the addition of orthopedic surgery services at the existing Ambulatory Surgery Treatment Center (ASTC). I proudly serve as the President and CEO of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Breese.

The proposal from Dr. Ahmed noted several reasons why adding orthopedic suites to the Metroeast Endoscopic Surgery Center (MESC) is the best alternative for his business objectives. These focused on improving access and better utilizing existing space and staff. Our hospital provides orthopedic services to residents in Clinton County, which is within the noted GMA of this project. Offering healthcare services that allow us to keep care local has been an ongoing strategy for our hospital leaders and board members. As health care providers, we believe that patients recover best when they are familiar with their surroundings and have loved ones nearby to support them. This often means offering care in convenient locations, close to home.

Physicians and staff at St. Joseph's Hospital provide quality, safe, and convenient care in our surgical services department every day; however, our surgical suites are currently underutilized. A recent addition of a new outpatient center provided 22 beds where we accommodate many of the orthopedic cases. We routinely operate at 28% capacity and have ample ability to accommodate additional volume. I believe that allowing MESC to open an additional operating room for orthopedics would further erode our surgical volume and eventually lead to a re-evaluation of the services we offer to area residents. In turn, this may lead to patients having to seek surgical services many miles from home.

In summary, I believe that adding these services to the MESC would negatively impact our hospital and cause an over-abundance of surgical rooms for the area. I respectfully ask that you deny the proposed addition of surgical specialties at MESC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Klay", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chris Klay, MHA, FACHE
President and CEO
HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital Breese