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*An Affiliate of Hospital Sisters Health System*

November 13, 2019

**RECEIVED**

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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

Re: Project #19-043  
Metroeast Endoscopic Surgery Center

Dear Ms. Avery:

As a member of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital's Board of Directors, I have had the opportunity to be part of the construction and growth of the new hospital over the past 6 years. During my tenure, the hospital has received numerous awards for quality and safety, including a recent five-star rating from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for quality and patient experience. As a member of the board, I strive to ensure that we offer services that are essential to the health and well-being of the local community. I believe that providing health care services locally helps patients remain independent as long as possible and also allows family and friends to lend extra support when needed.

Offering outpatient orthopedic surgery services at the Ambulatory Surgery Treatment Center (ASCT) in Fairview Heights is a duplication of services and undermines the efforts of community hospitals to keep care local. St. Joseph's surgery department has adequate room capacity for orthopedic cases which are not being utilized. Expansion of the ASCT in Fairview Heights would further impact our surgical volume causing us to re-evaluate this service line. The result could require patients to seek outpatient orthopedic services in distant communities, leading to a ripple effect in the area as patients seek health care elsewhere.

It is my opinion that the addition of orthopedic surgical rooms in the Fairview Heights area would lead to a duplication of health care services which would negatively impacting local access to safe, high quality care. I respectfully ask that you deny the proposed addition of orthopedic surgical services at the Metroeast Endoscopic Surgery Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Burgett".

Jim Burgett, Chairman  
HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital Highland  
Board of Directors