

August 24, 2020

Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities & Review Board
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Springfield, IL 62761
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AUG 27 2020

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Re: Opposition to CON Application #20-17 – Metro East Endoscopic Surgery Center

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am a physician who practices both family and sports medicine at HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital – Breese (SJB) and HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital Highland (SJH). I am deeply troubled by this CON application, and what it portends for my hospitals and the rural population we serve.

The financial pressures on SJB and SJH caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have been significant. This proposed redirection of patient volume and revenue, for already-underutilized rural hospitals, would significantly add to that pressure. Clearly this is an unnecessary duplication of existing hospital services. If Project #20-17 is allowed to move forward, resulting in the loss of all outpatient orthopedic surgeries and 15% of total outpatient procedures at SJH, service cuts and job losses at both hospitals will be unavoidable.

I am personally disappointed that the CON applicant seeks to walk away from the beneficial partnership he has enjoyed with our hospital. At his request, SJH has purchased and maintained expensive robotic orthopedic surgery equipment to support his practice. Given this entirely positive relationship, the CON application hit everyone at and SJB as shocking, opportunistic and callus.

Policy makers at the federal and state levels have been outspoken during this pandemic about preserving and supporting rural healthcare. I sincerely hope the Review Board does its part in this regards, and denies CON Application #20-17.

Respectfully,



Dr. Brian Klosterman
HSHS Medical Group, Family & Internal Medicine - Highland
12860 Troxler Ave.
Highland, IL 62249

Cc: Mike Constantino