



HSHS Medical Group

August 26, 2020

Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761
courtney.avery@illinois.gov

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AUG 27 2020

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Re: Opposition to CON Application #20-017 – Metroeast Endoscopic Surgery Center

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am a general practice physician who specializes in family medicine. I have the privilege of serving as Medical Staff President of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital – Highland (SJH). I write in opposition to CON Project #20-017.

This CON project proposes an unnecessary duplication of services, and is based entirely on procedures currently offered at two existing hospitals – SJH and HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital – Breese. Those redirected surgical cases will adversely impact surgical utilization at both hospitals, which are already below state standards. The adverse financial impact at SJH, a 25-bed Critical Access Hospital, will be substantial. To make up the reduction in \$1.7 million in net hospital revenue, service cuts will be inevitable.

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented financial and other challenges for SJH; CON Project #20-017 would compound these challenges with further cuts in patient volumes and hospital revenues. Especially now, this CON application is bad for health care in our rural area. I respectfully urge denial of CON Project #20-017 by the Review Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Shaefer, M.D.
Medical Staff President
HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital – Highland
12860 Troxler Avenue
Highland, IL 62249

Cc: Mike Constantino
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