



**Madison County Government
Madison County Board**

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AUG 27 2020

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

August 26, 2020

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

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

Dear Ms. Avery,

As a government official, I fully appreciate that correct outcomes often require a careful balancing of interests. Such an exercise, I respectfully suggest, should lead to the conclusion that this CON application merits denial.

Balanced against this illusory “benefit” are many significant adverse impacts:

- The project relies entirely on redirected outpatient orthopedic surgeries presently performed at two rural hospitals, representing the very essence of an “unnecessary duplication of services.”
- The most dramatically impacted hospital is a federally-designated Critical Access Hospital, meaning by definition that the adverse impacts threaten safety net services.
- This project comes during a pandemic that has financially strained all hospitals, particularly rural hospitals like the two that are adversely impacted here.
- The financial pressures caused by this project threaten ongoing charity care at both hospitals, while the surgery center provides absolutely no charity care.
- Patient cost increases are likely to result.

The preservation of rural hospitals should be of paramount importance at any time, and especially now. I sincerely hope that the Review Board members will engage a careful balancing of interests and, like me, conclude that Project #20-017 should be denied.

Respectfully,

/signed/
Judy Kuhn
Madison County Board, District 1

cc: Mike Constantino