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City of Breese

Member of Illinois Municipal League
500 N. First Street
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Clubhouse Manager
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August 25, 2020

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

RECEIVED

AUG 27 2020

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

I write in opposition to this CON application because of its negative impacts on area hospitals and health care. Project #20-017 relies entirely on the redirection each year of 200 outpatient surgeries from a CMS-designated Critical Access Hospital, together with 20 annual outpatient surgeries from HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital – Breese.

For rural health care, it is of paramount importance to preserve existing hospitals. This has never been clearer than during the current COVID-19 pandemic. If relatively higher-margin services like outpatient orthopedic surgery are redirected away from our rural hospitals, there simply will be nothing left to support the relatively lower- or negative-margin services like the emergency department. Job losses and service cuts will become unavoidable. Particularly given the absence of documented cost savings in the CON application, the merits do not favor Project #20-017. I respectfully ask that the Review Board deny it.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles Hilmes
Mayor
City of Breese
500 North 1st Street
Breese, IL 62230

Cc: Mike Constantino
Project Reviewer
Illinois Health Facilities & Review Board
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