

**Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Department
City of Breese**

500 North First Street • Breese, IL 62230
Shane Westfall - EMS Operations Manager – 618.526.2993
Shelly Schadegg - EMS Director - 618.526.4495
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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:

When an accident or health care emergency arises, minutes matter. Access to localized care is of paramount importance. That is something people in rural communities do not take for granted.

The continued viability of the Emergency Department at HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital – Breese (SJB) can never be assumed. It depends entirely upon a financially solid hospital that enjoys a necessary mix of relatively higher margin outpatient procedures that can cross-subsidize relatively lower or negative margin services like the emergency room.

Wise decisions from Springfield have never been more important to the preservation of rural health care, given the current pandemic experience. I respectfully ask that the Review Board deny Project #20-017 for what it is, an unnecessary duplication of existing and underutilized hospital services. I suspect there has never been a worse time to impose avoidable financial challenges upon rural hospitals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shelly Schadegg".

Shelly Schadegg
EMS Director
City of Breese
500 North 1st Street
Breese, IL 62230

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