



**HSHS  
St. Joseph's  
Hospital Breese**

August 31, 2020

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SEP 01 2020

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

I respectfully ask that the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board (IHFSRB) deny CON Application #20-17. As described therein, Project #20-17 relies entirely on shifting outpatient orthopedic surgeries away from our rural surgery department at HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital - Breese. Over the last couple of years, we've seen a decrease in our orthopedic surgical volume due to the opening of two new tertiary hospitals within a 25-mile radius.

Allowing MESC the CON Application would prove to be detrimental to the surgical volume and revenue at HSHS St. Joseph's Breese. MESC represents an unnecessary duplication of services; therefore, adversely affecting our existing surgery volume. This project would undermine having a financially stable, viable hospital in our community.

As a leader within the Breese community, I'm asking you to please oppose CON Application #20-17 requested by MESC so that HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital Breese can continue to offer high-quality orthopedic care within our community.

Respectfully,

Susan Bickline, M.S., CCC-SLP  
Manager of Specialty Clinics  
St. Joseph's Hospital Breese  
Holy Family Hospital Greenville

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