

September 1st, 2020

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

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing this letter to request the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board (IHFSRB) deny CON Application #20-17. Dr. Felix Ungacta, one of our current orthopedic surgeons at St. Joseph's Hospital, Breese is supporting this CON having committed an average of two hundred and twenty orthopedic surgical procedures which he will pull from HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital located in Highland and Breese, Illinois. Dr. Ungacta's support is extremely disheartening as we have regionally invested in the Mako Robot and infrastructure support at the request of Dr. Ungacta, providing him the opportunity to become the premier regional destination for orthopedic care.

With the approval of this CON, there will be huge burden on the Hospitals committed to serve the rural communities and may also cause more unemployment if there is decrease in revenue. Project # 20-017 proposes unnecessary duplication of services and is based entirely on procedures currently offered at these 2 existing hospitals.

I sincerely request to deny the CON application for Metro East Endoscopic Surgery Center.

Respectfully,



Vinay Bhooma, MD, MBA, FACMQ,
Chief Medical Officer.

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