



HSHS
St. Anthony's
Memorial Hospital

August 18, 2020

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

RECEIVED

AUG 26 2020

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Re.: Opposition to CON Project 20-030 – Effingham Medical Office Building

Dear Ms. Courtney Avery:

My name is Theresa Rutherford. I am blessed to serve as the President and CEO of HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital. I respectfully urge the Review Board to deny CON Project 20-030, only approving a revised CON application for an appropriately-sized building that does not duplicate existing hospital services.

St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital has served Effingham and surrounding communities for over 144 years. St. Anthony's is deemed by CMS as the Sole Community Hospital. We value the services the physicians provide to the patients of our community. We assisted in recruiting some of the physicians identified in the CON, and have provided all services identified. The patient volumes and revenue for therapy, lab, and diagnostic services described will be redirected away from St. Anthony's. As you know, revenues from such services assist a Sole Community Hospital in providing services needed by our communities such as the emergency department where we care for thousands each year during unplanned emergencies and accidents, Obstetrics and pediatrics where we support the beginning of life, general medicine, cardiology, etc. for all patients that need services regardless of their ability to pay.

In addition to full hospital services, we provide an investment of over \$11M, last year alone, to benefit our community. If our revenue is reduced by the amount highlighted in the proposed CON – a total of \$31.5 million per year, representing 8 percent of net hospital revenue – service cuts and job losses at the hospital would be unavoidable, along with a reduction of the community benefits we provide, impacting the most vulnerable in the communities we serve.

This year has already been very difficult in the face of the CoVid-19 pandemic. Many services have been available but unused for nearly 6 months of this year, resulting in financial losses and the unavoidable reduction of our workforce. Again, the redundancy of services and redirection of patients will result in further job losses and service cuts at St. Anthony's.

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We are guests in the human experiences our patients see in their lives. Each and every human life is a precious gift. Regardless of where our patients are in their lives, be it a time of birth, of growth, of maturity, of healing, or the precious moments as the human body ceases to function, we the colleagues of HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital are here to be of service, to meet their needs, to offer support and share our God given skills. We make a difference in the healthcare of this community. I again urge you to deny this CON as written. The oversized building, redundant services, and vaguely described procedure rooms clearly suggest that additional usage is planned for the building, with the potential to further erode the financial stability of St. Anthony's and compromising the health of our community going forward.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theresa J. Rutherford". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Theresa J. Rutherford RN, MS, MBA, FACHE

President and CEO

HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital