

August 24, 2020

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 #20-30 – Effingham Medical Office Building

Dear Ms. Avery

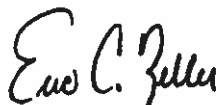
I respectfully oppose this CON project as originally submitted. While a similarly sized replacement medical office building that does not duplicate services would be acceptable, this greatly enlarged replacement with redundant services should be denied. As now proposed, CON project number 20-030 would be devastating for St. Anthony's Hospital, a CMS-designated Sole Community Hospital.

I am a Registered Nurse who serves as the administrator for a medical practice group in Effingham. My extended family and I are longtime Effingham-area residents. I am honored to serve as chairman-elect of the St. Anthony's Hospital board.

CON project number 20-030 would pull \$31.5 million per year out of the hospital, fully 8% of its net revenue. Those lost funds would no longer be available to cross-subsidize critical health care services like St. Anthony's 24/7/365 emergency room. Also, the hospital could no longer afford its significant level of community support.

The Effingham area is a zero-sum environment where every patient treated with a duplicated service will come at the expense of the existing hospital provider. Especially at this challenging time, with widespread pandemic-related financial losses at hospitals, access to rural health care and preservation of Sole Community Hospitals should be of paramount concern. I respectfully urge denial of this CON application.

Sincerely,



Eric C. Zeller

Cc: Mike Constantino
Project Reviewer
Illinois Health Facilities & Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761
mike.constantino@illinois.gov