

Ruben Boyajian, M.D.
Surgical Care Clinic

August 27, 2020

Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities & Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761
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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Re: Opposition to CON Project #20-30 – Effingham Medical Office Building

Dear Ms. Avery:

I write to urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to deny this application as originally submitted. A revised application that avoids duplication of hospital services, and provides for a replacement building of similar size to the existing one, could meet state standards and enjoy my support. The original application does not.

I am a board-certified surgeon, longtime resident of the Effingham area, and actively engaged member of the community. I well understand the adverse impact to health care in our area that would be caused by this project, and strongly believe that it fails to meet state standards under the Illinois Planning Act and its associated regulations.

Effingham is a community of stable, and even declining, population. No new physicians or patients are contemplated by this project. All that will occur is a shift of patients and revenue away from a federally-designated Sole Community Hospital, St. Anthony's, jeopardizing such critical services such as a 24/7/365 emergency room, obstetrics and pediatrics, general medical-surgical and geriatrics, and COVID 19 emergency response.

As an experienced medical professional, I clearly see that this project – with its oversized building and vaguely described procedure rooms – is intended to accommodate a future surgery center that would make the initial crippling impact an ultimately fatal blow. Compounding matters is the negative impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic has already had on St. Anthony's. The original application represents a win-lose that should be denied, a revised application that represents a win-win would be acceptable. Please deny CON #20-030.

Respectfully submitted,



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