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August 21, 2020

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

RECEIVED

AUG 28 2020

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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

Dear Ms. Avery,

I must oppose this greatly enlarged medical office building with redundant services, which simply shifts patients and revenue away from a Sole Community Hospital, unavoidably causing a reduction in hospital services and jobs. A similarly sized replacement building that does not unnecessarily duplicate existing hospital services would be acceptable. The CON application as submitted is not.

As an emergency room physician, I am particularly concerned about the negative impacts this project portends for my 24/7/365 emergency room. In a rural community like Effingham, where no new patients or providers are contemplated, the shifting away of \$31.5 million per year in hospital revenue will have significant consequences.

For a hospital to be recognized as a Sole Community Hospital, the federal government must find that its continued viability is critical to (a) maintain access to needed health services for Medicaid beneficiaries in an isolated area; and (b) provide a rural population with localized care, thereby minimizing the need for referrals and travel to urban areas and providing services at costs lower than would be incurred in urban areas. Financially crippling a Sole Community Hospital in the manner proposed by this CON application should be avoided.

Please deny this CON application as originally proposed.

Sincerely,
Signed by:

Kelly Geldmacher

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Kelly Geldmacher, M.D.
HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital/Vituity
Emergency Department
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Cc: Mike Constantino
Project Reviewer
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