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

RECEIVED

AUG 28 2020

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

August 19, 2020

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

Dear Ms. Avery,

On April 4th, 1949, the St. Anthony Hospital suffered the worst hospital fire in the nation's history. Out of the ashes of that catastrophe, amazing changes took place. Because of the tragedy, national construction standards were implemented for hospitals to insure against a repeat of the horror. And in Effingham, a new hospital structure emerged, helped by donations from around the nation. As a community member, our family donated to that new structure and has served countless volunteer roles in the HSHS organization. Viewing HSHS St. Anthony through our unique prism, we are resolute in knowing that the proposed new medical facility for the community will devastate the delicate financial balance of delivering quality health care to this region. For that reason, I urge you to deny the original CON application and consider an appropriately sized building that does not replicate and imperil existing community health resources.

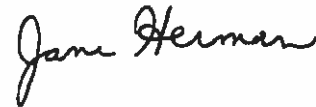
HSHS St. Anthony has been designated as the Sole Community Hospital for our region. That status is not only a recognition of the critical nature of the entity, but also, the financial challenges that they face. While the hospital struggles to overcome the financial peril of COVID, the entrant of a new competitor for redundant services will cut the proverbial "patient pie" into even more pieces. That can only lead to reduced financial resources for sustaining the services and technology for our region. The large building footprint will easily accommodate expanded services that would necessarily undermine the stability of health care in the region, and in particular, the Sole Community Hospital.

Finally, consider the following industries:

1. **Automotive** – The car manufacturing industry first started more than 120 years ago. Little is written about the fact that there were more than 100 car companies that started. Only 3 emerged.
2. **Plane manufacturing** – With Lindberg's crossing of the Atlantic, like the auto industry, more than 100 airplane manufacturers were started. Within 20 years, only 4 remained.
3. **Computers** – In the fledgling days of the computer industry of the 1980's, there were hundreds of computer firms that were created. But only 3-4 survived.

The point of the above is one of the key reasons that the Health Facilities & Review Board was created – to prevent monolithic system of health care that ultimately was a disservice to the communities. This is particularly critical in smaller rural markets like Effingham. I believe the new medical building will be an enhancement to the community, but only if recrafted to ensure the responsible needs of preserving the existing community health care resources. The hospital fire was an incredible threat to the health care needs of our community. With responsible planning and execution, on your part, HSHS St. Anthony's can remain that vibrant resource.

Sincerely,



Jane Herman

Cc: Mike Constantino
Project Reviewer
Illinois Health Facilities and Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
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