



**HSHS  
St. Anthony's  
Memorial Hospital**

August 26, 2020

Courtney Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities & Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761  
[courtney.avery@illinois.gov](mailto:courtney.avery@illinois.gov)

**RECEIVED**

AUG 28 2020

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing to you as the Chief Nursing Officer of HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital in Effingham, Illinois. I am respectfully opposing CON project #20-30 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 our hospital (a CMS-designated Sole Community Hospital), our colleagues, and our community.

CON project number 20-030 would pull \$31.5 million per year out of our local hospital, fully 8% of its net revenue. Those lost funds would no longer be available to cross-subsidize critical health care services like our 24/7/365 emergency room or our Obstetrics unit. Also, the hospital would no longer be able to afford its significant level of community support including funding our Crisis Nursery and providing meals and medication assistance to Catholic Charities clients. Those people that would be affected are our family, friends, and neighbors- the backbone of our community

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 in order to preserve our community hospital.

Sincerely,

***Bobbi Kinkelaar, RN, MSN***

Chief Nursing Officer  
HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital

Cc: Mike Constantino  
Project Reviewer  
Illinois Health Facilities & Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761  
[mike.constantino@illinois.gov](mailto:mike.constantino@illinois.gov)