

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,

As a member of the HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital Patient Family Advisory Council, 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.

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,

*Nicole B. Zeller, MSN, RN*  
Nursing Faculty, Tenured

Cc: Mike Constantino  
Project Reviewer  
Illinois Health Facilities & Review Board  
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