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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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Emeryville, CA 94608
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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

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

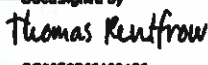
Dear Ms. Avery:

I am an emergency room physician at St. Anthony's Hospital in Effingham. Ours is a Sole Community Hospital that relies upon existing patients and revenues from out-patient services to cross subsidize under-reimbursed necessary services, like our 24/7/365 emergency room. If this CON project is approved in its current form, job losses and service cuts – very possibly impacting the emergency room – will be unavoidable. Unless significantly modified to avoid duplication of hospital services, I must oppose this project.

This is terrible timing for such a project. Like most every hospital in the nation, St. Anthony's has suffered significant financial losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated state orders to curtail or reduce elective procedures. At both the federal and state levels, policymakers have prioritized rural health care and the preservation of Sole Community Hospitals. This CON project moves in the opposite direction. It skims away higher margin patient volumes and services that support many critically needed areas of the hospital that do not pay for themselves.

Please do not allow this unnecessary duplication of hospital services. At a minimum, please require the applicant to modify its project with an appropriately sized replacement building and no duplication of existing hospital services.

Respectfully,

DocuSigned by

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Thomas Rentfrow, M.D.
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Effingham, IL 62401

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Project Reviewer
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