

August 24, 2020

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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

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

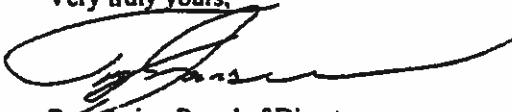
Dear Ms. Avery:

As members of the Foundation Board of Directors for HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital (SAH), we engage in significant volunteer work to assure a sustainable future for our Sole Community Hospital by securing donations that help our nonprofit hospital advance its mission. The financial challenges for a rural hospital like ours are ever-present, and have only been made worse by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. But our work is of vital importance for a community that relies upon SAH to provide a 24/7/365 emergency room, a full range of medical services from pediatrics to geriatrics, health care services for Medicaid recipients, charity care for the uninsured, and wide-ranging support for local governments and community organizations.

We strongly oppose CON Project #20-030. One can only imagine our sense of anxiety and dread over this CON application. Pulling out of our hospital some \$31.5 million in patient revenue, representing nearly ten percent of gross hospital income, would effectively render all our volunteer work meaningless. Service cuts, job losses and reduced community engagement would be the end result for SAH. We would all be left feeling both dispirited and abandoned.

While none of us objects to the mere modernization and replacement of an existing medical office building – as the CON applicant has publicly declared is its intent – all of us strongly oppose this unnecessary duplication of existing hospital services. Whatever gains the applicant may acquire through Project #20-030 would come at significant and lasting health care and social costs for the greater Effingham community. We implore the Review Board to insist on appropriate modifications to Project #20-030 before even contemplating its approval; as originally submitted, the CON application merits denial.

Very truly yours,



Foundation Board of Directors
Troy Jansen
HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital

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