

August 31, 2020

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

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

As a volunteer board member of HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial hospital, I oppose Project #20-030 as submitted for many reasons. It proposes a replacement building more than twice as large as the existing one, along with new services that unnecessarily duplicate those performed at an existing hospital provider; it significantly diminishes the positive collaboration that has long occurred between the applicant and a federally-designated Sole Community Hospital; it adds to the ongoing pandemic-related challenges faced by a rural hospital; and it results in patient volume and revenue shifts away from a rural hospital, which can only lead to diminished hospital services, lost hospital jobs, and reduced hospital community engagement.

I sincerely believe that the greater Effingham community would benefit from more information: like a demonstration of need, identification of adverse impacts on existing providers, and referral letters that traditionally accompany proposed new services. None of this has been provided to the Review Board, the effected hospital, or the Effingham community. A better outcome will require such detailed information, along with Review Board resolve to deny this CON application as originally submitted. A win-win solution is possible, I respectfully believe, if the Review Board requires it.

Respectfully,

Allie Weber

Allie Weber
Board Member, HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital
503 North Maple Street
Effingham, IL 62401

Cc: Mike Constantino
Project Reviewer
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761
mike.constantino@illinois.gov