

Mr. Terry Dunning
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March 9, 2021

Ms. Debra Savage, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
25 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: OrthoIllinois Surgery Center Elgin, LLC ("OrthoIllinois")
Project No. 20-040, Letter of Opposition Regarding Safety Net Services

Ms. Savage,

As a Life Director of the Advocate Sherman Hospital Board of Directors, a community resident and business owner, I'd like to express my opposition to the proposed OrthoIllinois Surgery Center Elgin. New development in the Elgin community is welcomed, yet we know the OrthoIllinois project will adversely impact the essential health care services on which my community relies.

Advocate Sherman Hospital (Sherman)—a not-for-profit hospital which has served our community for more than 125 years—acts as an essential safety net to keep our community healthy.

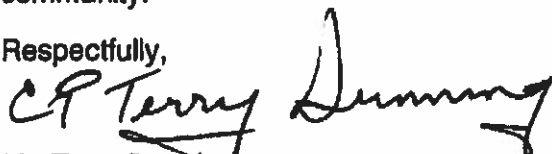
- As a Level II Trauma Center, Sherman performs a critical function for the region, stabilizing and treating anyone that comes into its Emergency Department *regardless of their ability to pay*. It is also the only hospital in the area that delivers babies.
- In 2020, Sherman served 25,000+ Medicare patients, 20,000+ Medicaid patients, and 6,500+ uninsured patients. To that end, last year Sherman provided \$61.7 million in charity and other uncompensated care.

During this pandemic, Sherman has taken care of the region in our hour of need, with nearly 1,500 sick COVID-positive patients admitted to the hospital as February 2021. Additionally, Sherman has provided ~15,000 COVID vaccines to date. The pandemic has taken a toll on both the individual frontline health care workers and on the hospital itself.

Sherman is budgeted to operate at a substantial loss in 2021, due in part to the growth in uncompensated care. Significant losses of this kind are unsustainable in the long-term. Orthopedic procedures are highly reimbursed, and these procedures allow Sherman to continue to provide low and no reimbursement services. We cannot destabilize funding streams for hospitals such as Sherman that serve as safety nets for their communities.

Please carefully consider the impact the OrthoIllinois project would have upon the ability of not-for-profit hospitals, such as Advocate Sherman Hospital, to provide essential services in our community.

Respectfully,



Mr. Terry Dunning

cc: Courtney Avery, Administrator