



Centro de Información empowers Hispanics with the ability to effectively integrate into our greater community through the facilitation of information, education, citizenship, and well-being.

centrodeinformacion.org

February 19, 2021

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

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

Dear Ms. Savage,

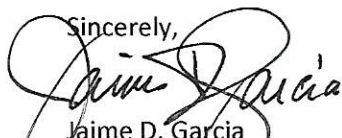
I am writing to you to express some concerns about how the Orthollinois project could affect essential health care services in the Elgin area, affecting clients of my organization and community. I serve as the Executive Director of Centro de Información a social service agency located in Elgin which has been serving the Hispanic community for 49 years and have would closely with Advocate Sherman providing health services to those that can least afford it.

Advocate Sherman Hospital—a not-for-profit hospital which has served our community for more than 125 years—provides tens of millions of dollars in uncompensated care each year to keep our community healthy. As a Level II Trauma Center, Sherman performs an essential function for the region, stabilizing and treating everyone that comes into its Emergency Department regardless of their ability to pay. Advocate Sherman is also the only hospital in Elgin that delivers babies—an essential service for new mothers served by my organization—and mothers need services regardless of their ability to pay. Because of their commitment to offer these services and others, it is my understanding that Advocate Sherman is budgeted to continue to operate at a substantial loss in 2021.

Orthopedic procedures are one of the more highly reimbursed specialties and these procedures help cross-subsidize losses Advocate Sherman incurs from providing low and no reimbursement services. We cannot destabilize funding streams for hospitals that serve as safety nets for the region. I am confident that Orthollinois would perform well at their facility. I ask, however, that you carefully evaluate the impact that a proposed new facility would have upon the ability of not-for-profit hospitals, such as Advocate Sherman Hospital, to provide essential services needed in our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jaime D. Garcia
Executive Director

cc: Courtney Avery, Administrator



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