

**BALDEMAR  
LOPEZ**  
FOR ELGIN CITY COUNCIL  
ONE ELGIN TOGETHER FOR PROGRESS

April 8, 2021

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

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HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

RE: Orthollinois Surgery Center Elgin, LLC  
Project No. 20-040, Letter of Opposition

Dear Ms. Savage,

I serve as a City Council member in Elgin, Illinois, which has a Latino population of over 44% and is a key constituency of the area. For me, maintaining Safety Net services for the Latino community, and those who are at-risk and underserved, is absolutely essential to my work as an elected official. For this reason, I strongly oppose the CON application submitted by the newly-created, for-profit entity, Orthollinois, to establish a surgery center here in Elgin.

In reading its application, Orthollinois Surgery Center Elgin, LLC outlines how this company is structured so that the surgeon investors will profit immensely at the expense of the at-risk, underserved Elgin community by redirecting over \$15 million a year away from health care safety net services and charity care. This is unacceptable.

Over two-thirds of the proposed project's patient volume (67.5%) is being taken from the major Safety Net providers in area: Advocate Sherman Hospital (33.9%), Northwestern Huntley (21.8%), and AMITA St. Joseph (11.8%). These three hospitals treat the region's Medicaid patients and are the largest providers of charity care in the area, making a huge difference in the lives of families each and every day. By contrast, Orthollinois' CON application declares on page 275 that "Ambulatory Surgical Treatment Centers are not providers of safety net services..."

Outpatient orthopedic surgeries help hospitals cross-subsidize Safety Net services, including Emergency Department and Obstetrics services critical to the health of this community. As we saw with the hospitals that have closed—or nearly closed—in recent years, and the tremendous financial strain created for hospitals during the ongoing pandemic with curtailing of elective procedures, you cannot erode the financial foundation of an organization and expect it to maintain long-term financial health. We need to support our community hospitals, not line the pockets of wealthy for-profit surgeon investors at the expense of local infrastructure.

I am not in support of this Surgery Center setting up in our community because of the detrimental effects to our at-risk population. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Baldemar Lopez  
City Council Member of the City of Elgin