

**Rose Diaz
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Elgin, IL 60124
630-362-6712**

April 12, 2021

Via Electronic Delivery

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



Re: OrthoIllinois Surgery Center Elgin, LLC ("OrthoIllinois")
Project No. 20-040 (the "Project")
Letter of Opposition

Dear Ms. Savage:

As a former member of the Kane County Workforce Board, Central Unit District 301 School Board and as a current member of the Patient and Family Advisory Council at Advocate Sherman Hospital and Director at YWCA in Elgin, I believe that the input of the community and its leaders is vital in making good board decisions.

I am passionate about serving our community and have been for many years. Normally I would welcome a new facility but when you consider the overall impact on health care services in the greater Elgin area, I cannot support the application to establish a new facility.

The proposed new Project takes all of its cases from existing providers, taking 1,843 cases from three existing area hospitals and the remainder from existing surgery centers. The proposal would take 327 procedures from AMITA St. Joseph, 941 from Advocate Sherman and 575 from Northwestern Huntley in my home county. My concern is not about access to orthopedic services as there is more than adequate access and options in different models of care, including existing surgery centers. My concern is that this proposed Project will mean the loss of reimbursement for higher compensated procedures that a hospital needs to offset the losses from Medicaid cases and significant charity care.

Hospitals, and particularly not-for-profit hospital systems, are the backbone of our community health care delivery network. They are the institutions that provide the care residents depend upon, doing so even at a

financial loss. For example, Advocate Sherman Hospital is the only trauma center in the entire area and this program operates at a considerable financial loss. I believe if asked which was more important to the community, a new orthopedic center or an ongoing Trauma Center, the majority would overwhelmingly choose a trauma center.

While I know of no plans to discontinue trauma services, ongoing financial realities will create difficult decisions. Advocate Sherman Hospital serves an area of many low income families with wide ethnic diversity. Advocate Sherman delivered almost \$62 million in charity and uncompensated care last year, largely by accepting patients regardless of ability to pay. As a consequence, I understand that it will operate at a significant financial loss in 2021 and that such ongoing losses would mean the current scope of services would be unsustainable.

I respectfully ask the review board members to consider our diverse population, and the impact this decision would have on the underserved and low income families. Due to the pandemic, our community and at risk families have already experienced huge economic setbacks. The purpose of a new health facility should be to improve the quality of health, not cause a large disparity in the equity of health amongst its own community. Therefore, I encourage you to not approve this project.

Sincerely,

Rose Diaz
Elgin Community member