

April 13, 2021

Ms. Debra Savage, Chair
c/o Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
25 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761
courtney.avery@illinois.gov

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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

Dear Ms. Savage,

My name is Audrey Reed, and I am a member of the Latino community here in Elgin, where I have lived for more than 40 years. In 1991, I began working as a bilingual liaison working with families for District U46. I worked with the Department of Children and Family Services through Children's home and Aid Society as a case manager, and Centro de Informacion as Executive Director for 10 years. Our work with other community agencies helped us to implement culturally relevant services for the Hispanic Community, including seminars on health issues, job fairs, and support in becoming part of a community. My work with District U-46 as Director of the Welcome Center, Administer Justice, and serving on many community Boards, has helped me to understand the needs of the Hispanic Community.

All of my life, I have been dedicated to this work—to lifting up my community. Therefore, I was troubled to read the application for Project No. 20-040. To continue to make meaningful progress in closing the health equity gap in communities of color, we must be laser-focused on supporting safety net service providers or we risk willingly rubber-stamping a system that actively creates health care have and have-nots. Now is not the time to go backwards and lose all the ground we have gained.

The for-profit applicant for Project No. 20-040 acknowledges in their application that they have no intention of providing safety-net services and providing care to meaningful volumes of Medicaid and charity care patients. Their profit model is not built on that. Instead, they intend to skim patients with private insurance from the local providers who provide the vast majority of safety net services in the area, damaging the health care safety net. This does not serve the Hispanic Community of the Elgin area, and has the real potential to hinder progress toward health equity.

I urge you to vote "no" on this CON in support of the vital services provided to the at-risk and immigrant members of our community.

Sincerely,

Audrey Reed
Elgin Community Member