



April 14, 2021

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

RECEIVED

APR 14 2021

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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

Dear Ms. Savage,

I have the privilege of serving the 66th District of the Illinois House of Representatives, which encompasses Advocate Sherman Hospital in Elgin, and contains many west suburban communities. Health care is a top concern for the constituents in my district. Both here and across the country, access to high-quality, affordable health care is a social issue, an economic issue, a geographic issue—and it is a topic which I care about deeply. As a state representative, my goal is to drive health equity, preserve, and enhance safety net services in my district to build a healthy community.

I am deeply concerned with the proposed OrthoIllinois project, which would—according to their own application—divert nearly two thirds of their patients from local community hospitals while providing little to no Medicaid services. From page 275: “Ambulatory Surgical Treatment Centers are not providers of safety net services...” Advocate Sherman Hospital and the other not-for-profit community hospitals in the area provide essential safety-net services upon which residents rely—trauma care, women’s health, obstetrics, etc.—regardless of a patient’s ability to pay. The diversion of nearly \$15 million a year from these hospitals to a for-profit entity could be devastating to the community.

As a small business owner for more than 15 years, I know that balance is the key to the longevity of any successful organization. In the health care space, we must be careful as for-profit entities attempt to enter into the market. We do not want to chip away at the funding that supports our not-for-profit community hospitals as they consistently deliver high-quality care and produce excellent patient outcomes. Many Illinoisans, nearly 2.3 million, half of those children, rely on access to that quality care.

Preserving the health care safety net for residents of my district is of the utmost importance. For this reason, I do not support the CON application being reviewed. Please reach out to me should you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

State Representative Suzanne Ness
IL House- District 66
ssness@repsnessil66.com

www.repsnessil66.com