

June 25, 2021

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

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

Dear Ms. Savage,

Our community is struggling. After more than 16 months of lock-downs, stay-at-home orders, social distancing and closures, Huntley/McHenry County and its residents find themselves worried for their future and in need of a little more help than we're used to. To help us recover, we need to strengthen our safety net, especially when it comes to healthcare.

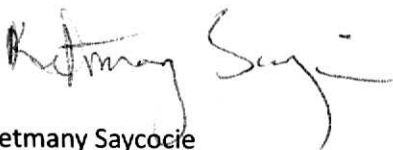
According to a recent Kane County Community Health Needs Assessment, the most common barrier to seeking healthcare services was cost, followed closely by closures due to the pandemic. Put simply, more of our neighbors need low and no cost healthcare, and they need it now. So many people delayed preventative and primary care due to COVID-19, and now, they may feel comfortable heading into a doctor's office, but they're terrified they can't afford it.

Given the situation we find ourselves in, I believe we should focus our healthcare resources where they're most needed. The existing safety net is allowing some Kane County residents to fall through the cracks, I urge the Board not to poke more holes in this critical resource by approving Project 20-040 for a specialty surgical center in Elgin. I'm all for more healthcare resources, but this is simply not the kind of facility we need to support our most vulnerable and improve our community's health.

It is my understanding that this new facility will impact the ability of other area healthcare providers to offer low and no cost healthcare, not because they are greedy for profits, but because the revenue generated from orthopedic surgeries supports their community health efforts and enables them to help more people get the care they need, regardless of their ability to pay.

Please consider the impact that this project will have on our community's ability to protect the most vulnerable. I don't believe that our community, especially the many residents who are struggling after the pandemic, will be better off if this project were to move forward.

Thank you for your consideration,



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