

June 22, 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: OrthoIllinois Surgery Center Elgin, LLC
Project No. 20-040, Letter of Opposition

Dear Ms. Savage,

Like you, I also serve as the presiding officer for a governmental board. In my case as President of the Fox River Water Reclamation District (FWRD) Board. As you well know, Boards often face difficult decisions. I have come to greatly value the input of the community in trying to decide what is best for the community we serve. I appreciate the opportunity to share with you my concerns.

Over the years I have had family members require health care and hospitalization, including my father. In some cases these family members were financially challenged. For me, assuring sustainable Safety Net services for people of low economic means is absolutely essential to my work as a government official and as a resident of the City of Elgin. The procedures proposed to be taken from area hospitals provide revenue necessary to subsidize indigent care and safety net services. For this reason, I oppose the CON application for OrthoIllinois to establish a surgery center in Elgin.

Our community has many needs that should be addressed creating a high profit new specialty center is not one of them. We need to strength those providers upon we rely most and I ask that you not approve this application. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Benjamin Bernal, Board President
Fox River Water Reclamation District