

June 29, 2021

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

RECEIVED

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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,

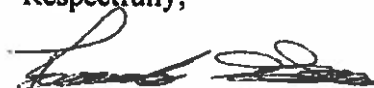
I am lifelong Elgin resident, community organizer, youth soccer coach and mental healthcare professional serving the Elgin area. In my capacity as a youth soccer league president of the Elgin All-Stars Soccer Club, I have the privilege to work with immigrant and underprivileged families. Serving others is my life's work. As an immigrant myself, I've seen first-hand the struggles that people face who have language barriers and financial challenges.

The Elgin area has many health care needs. As an Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs prevention Coordinator, I focus on preventing underage youth from using these products. Many of these youth also suffer from behavioral health issues. I consider mental health and substance abuse services to be a high priority in our community. I am not alone in this view. The Kane County Health Department conducted an extensive Community Health Assessment this year. This 2021 Assessment prioritized the health needs of Kane County. The number one need identified was for more Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse service.

I oppose to the approval of the OrthoIllinois CON application because it serves none of the actual needs identified by the community that I serve and represent. Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse services are generally not profitable services and often serve patients that are financially challenged. If this application is approved, the residents who will face the greatest unmet needs are the ones I work with on a daily basis – those individuals that are an afterthought for most people.

I am attaching the Executive Summary of the 2021 Community Health Assessment so that you can see for yourself the great needs of Kane County and that a new orthopedic surgery center is not one of those needs. I appreciate very much being given the opportunity to submit this letter.

Respectfully,



Ricardo Gasca, President
Elgin All-Stars Soccer Club

Attachment