

K. Eric Larson

July 6, 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,

I write this letter to express my concerns about granting OrthoIllinois the privilege to establish a new surgery center in our community. The City of Elgin is special to me and others who have also voiced their opposition to this new entity profiting from our residents at the unavoidable expense of our two hospitals and existing surgery centers. My roles as president of the Northeast Neighborhood Association of Elgin, which represents some of the most involved and passionate people in the Elgin community, and as the executive director of the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra, give me unique vantage point to provide my opinion on this matter. Elgin is our home, and we have come a long way from where we were years ago; but not unlike most communities in Illinois, there is still much for us to do, and this includes assisting the underprivileged.

While I believe we must help business to thrive in Elgin, the motives of OrthoIllinois to target a single demographic – the insured – in their attempt to profit from our community at a net cost in terms of overall health care from all residents regardless of ability to pay. When I read that OrthoIllinois is seeking to profit at or around 24%, but that our community safety net hospitals barely break even, I was taken aback. In a community that has its share of residents who struggle, it is difficult for me to believe that we could allow a health care organization to open in our community whose main purpose is driven by profit at the expense of other providers whose mission centers simply on health care. Safety net services are important for the well-being of our residents, and I have a strong concern about health care continuing to go down the path of putting profits over quality health care for all – especially now, as we endeavor to recover fully from COVID-19.

I hope that you and the other members of the board understand that my opinion is shared by many of my neighbors and those I represent as a leader is this wonderful City. I look forward to knowing that my opinion did not fall on deaf ears, and not taken lightly, when making a difficult decision to approve this application.

Sincerely,



K. Eric Larson