

Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Quincy Medical Group Hospital, Project #20-044

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing in opposition of the proposed Quincy Medical Group Hospital. While I believe the Quincy Medical Group is a good provider in our area, I don't believe the expanded community, which is already serviced by the Blessing Health System, demands a second hospital in the area. I fear that the introduction of a second hospital will weaken the hospital services provided in the area. Even if some believe it could be beneficial, I would contend that taking that risk in the middle of a pandemic is not the time to disrupt the health care system in this region or put additional strain on our healthcare safety net.

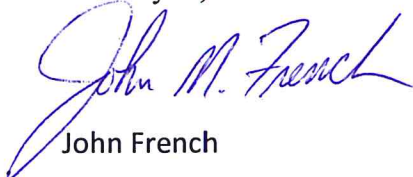
I am a superintendent of a public school district in Northeast Missouri. Most of my community is serviced by the Blessing Health System. In fact, our school district partners with Blessing to provide our employees with a unique and complete Wellness Program that is designed to manage health care costs and improve the health of our employees. I know how difficult it can be for our rural school to find quality employees and teachers. Throughout our partnership with Blessing, I have witnessed their struggle to employ quality nurse and doctor candidates also. Adding a second hospital would only cause the impacts of such a shortage to be magnified. Again, with the COVID-19 pandemic still a threat, it would be horrible timing to consider such expansion.

I know that the Blessing Health System has been a leader in the community and has been on the frontlines in the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic. Blessing responded quickly to the pandemic by renovating their facility to handle the demands associated with COVID-19. They were able to create 87 rooms with the ability to care for up to 130 patients who needed negative pressure isolation. They formed hotline numbers staffed by their registered nurses to provide information, advice, and direction to community members who called with questions about COVID-19. They were also able to create a drive-through testing site in their parking lot to service the surrounding community during the pandemic.

It is my understanding that proposed expansion in project #20-044 by the Quincy Medical Group is to create a fairly small facility with limited ability to serve the community. The sickest and most vulnerable patients will still need Blessing to receive the services they need, as QMG will not be equipped to treat those patients. Quincy is not a large metropolitan area that can sustain a secondary hospital as proposed.

For these reasons, I strongly encourage you to oppose the Quincy Medical Group Hospital, project #20-044.

Thank you,



John French

Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
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Dear Ms. Avery,

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Twenty one percent of rural hospitals are at risk of closing. Opening an additional hospital, during this time, is an unnecessary gamble in a region that does not have a demonstrable need for additional hospital beds. Our community is already over bedded by at least 75 beds. A small-format hospital, would not increase choice or quality of care, instead it would strain an already limited talented pool and resources, diminishing our ability to receive consistent, high quality care.

Blessing Health System has been a strong leader in our community and was on the frontlines in battle against the COVID-19 pandemic. Blessing has worked tirelessly over the past 11 months to keep all of our communities safe and healthy. Because of their deep connections to the community and relying on their first in class experts, Blessing acted quickly and smartly. They renovated their facility to create 87 rooms with the ability to care for up to 130 patients requiring negative pressure isolation, they also set up a hotline staffed by registered nurses who help callers with questions about COVID-19, including discussing any symptoms they might be experiencing and they also stood up a drive-thru facility for COVID-19 testing.

The proposed small-format hospital is not needed and would only add stress to our region's healthcare system. I encourage you to oppose Quincy Medical Group Hospital, project #20-044.

Thank you,
Brian Young
Blessing Hospital
Quincy , Illinois 62305

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Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing in opposition of Quincy Medical Group Hospital. The middle of a pandemic is not the time to disrupt an already fragile healthcare system in this region or to put additional strain on the healthcare safety net.

I am concerned that a second, unnecessary hospital will have an adverse impact on the over 17,000 people in Adams County who rely on Medicaid for their healthcare. Blessing serves everyone, regardless of their income and ability to pay. They don't turn anyone away, they never have and never will. The second hospital does not guarantee that those in need will receive care.

We have very precious resources in this area from nurses, radiology staff and machines, respiratory therapists, pharmacists, and so many other specialized professionals that are so very hard to come by. Adding this second hospital makes these resources even more scarce than they already are. Are we going to support duplicate therapy services, physicians, dietitians and so many others. How much work will be there for them? What about the technical aspects of maintenance, biomed specially trained staff, all the quality control and infection control experts? This seems quite impractical for a 28 bed facility in my opinion. I remember in two local cities-Hannibal and Quincy when the need to consolidate to one hospital occurred, although painful, so much good came out of it so why seek to divide the health care in our area again? I know there is downright animosity between the two entities (QMG and Blessing) that has been there for years and it seems we are going to support it in some respects if this is approved. As employees we also are divided having to go out of network at times and this may cause us to pay for out of network hospital and diagnostic services if our provider does not respect our wishes. With our large employee group, this seems out of reach and unnecessary for so many employees. Lastly I am concerned about the welfare of the patients who are served there with so little support, for example, what if my provider performed my colonoscopy there and I needed resuscitation unexpectedly, I would have to wait to be treated as a community arrest and that survival rate is very low? More complex patients at Blessing cannot go back and forth for fragmented care which again is quite impractical for those we serve. Through all these negotiations, other than cost, I have not been convinced there is any real benefit to our professionals or the patients we serve, it only points out the lack of community cohesiveness to promoting the health and well being of our community. Look how so many agencies came together to deal with the COVID pandemic, we need more of this collaboration. I may be ranting but I have lived and worked in this community, was educated here and love this community in my 40 years of nursing, working at both St. Mary's Hospital and Blessing and know the times are only good when we all come together for the best for all.

The proposed small-format hospital is not needed and would only add stress to our region's healthcare system. I encourage you to oppose Quincy Medical Group Hospital, project #20-044.

Thank you,
Beth Schutte
Blessing Hospital
Quincy, IL 62305

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Blessing serves everyone, regardless of their income and ability to pay. They don't turn anyone away, they never have and never will. They combine the latest technology with a personal touch to deliver high quality, patient centered care, close to home. They are the most advanced medical center in 100-mile radius.

The proposed small-format hospital is not needed and would only add stress to our region's healthcare system. I encourage you to oppose Quincy Medical Group Hospital, project #20-044.

Thank you,
Chandler Waelder
Blessing Hospital
Quincy, IL 62301

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Twenty one percent of rural hospitals are at risk of closing. Opening an additional hospital, during this time, is an unnecessary gamble in a region that does not have a demonstrable need for additional hospital beds. Our community is already over bedded by at least 75 beds. A small-format hospital, would not increase choice or quality of care, instead it would strain an already limited talented pool and resources, diminishing our ability to receive consistent, high quality care.

I am concerned that adding a hospital to Quincy will affect our nursing shortage, and take good nurses away from their current jobs and nursing homes. COVID has already treated our elderly very badly by alienating them from guests and family. Please don't take their nurses, too. I realize people have been upset since St. Mary's closed.....that "they no longer had a choice of hospitals". But, as a long-time resident of the Quincy area, I can assure you that the care received at Blessing is the best there is and adding another hospital is not going to enhance the quality of healthcare offered in our area.

The proposed small-format hospital is not needed and would only add stress to our region's healthcare system. I encourage you to oppose Quincy Medical Group Hospital, project #20-044.

Thank you,
Diane Nutter
Blessing Physician Services
Quincy, Illinois 62301

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Thank you,
Donetta Schuette
Blessing Hospital
Quincy, IL 62301

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Thank you,
Eric Thorsen
Blessing Hospital
Quincy, Illinois 62301

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Thank you,
Holly Jones
Illini Community Hospital
Pleasant Hill, IL, Illinois 62366

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Thank you,
Janine Chapel
Blessing Hospital
Quincy, IL 62301

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Thank you,
Jessica Dalheim
Blessing Hospital
Quincy, Illinois 62301

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Based on a personal experience with QMG they are not willing to go above and beyond for their patients. When my husband needed his Humira injections weekly instead of bi-weekly his insurance would not cover it. The only attempt that the QMG physician's office made to get them approved was to fax his medical records and the insurance denied the injections based on the medical records. We asked the doctor's office to call his insurance company to talk to them and they refused to call the insurance or put forth any extra effort in getting them approved. They lack empathy for their patients. On my husband's first visit to Blessing Physician Services the physician told us that he felt confident that they could get the injections approved weekly. Not only did the Blessing physician's office fax the medical records, they faxed a medical necessity letter, the physician called the insurance company, and his office contacted the drug representative for additional documentation to justify the weekly injections. Because the Blessing physician went above and beyond for my husband his insurance company approved his weekly injections. He is getting the medical treatment that he needed. This is the type of care that the Blessing Health System is providing every day by going above and beyond for their patients. QMG had all of these resources available to them too but chose not to go above and beyond for a patient that had been seeing this physician for 25 years. This type of care is not given now at QMG so the community cannot expect to get it from a hospital ran by QMG physicians.

The proposed small-format hospital is not needed and would only add stress to our region's healthcare system. I encourage you to oppose Quincy Medical Group Hospital, project #20-044.

Thank you,
Karen Beckett
Blessing Hospital
Quincy, IL 62301

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As a medical provider, I understand the importance of excellent patient care for our community. One of the keys to that care is teamwork. By opening a second hospital, the structure of teamwork that has helped our providers during the pandemic, and beyond, is in serious jeopardy. Patients know they can come to one location and receive care at whatever level they require, without having to decide if their symptoms are "too bad" for one hospital versus the other.

The proposed small-format hospital is not needed and would only add stress to our region's healthcare system. I encourage you to oppose Quincy Medical Group Hospital, project #20-044.

Thank you,
Lj Helmke
Blessing Hospital
Quincy, IL 62301

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Thank you,
Mike Rogerson
Blessing Hospital
Quincy, Illinois 62301

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Thank you,
Starla Lewis
Illini Community Hospital
Pittsfield, IL 62363

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I am concerned that a second, unnecessary hospital will have an adverse impact on the over 17,000 people in Adams County who rely on Medicaid for their healthcare. Blessing serves everyone, regardless of their income and ability to pay. As proposed many duplicative services will be provided and unnecessary. I would support ONLY overnight facilities in Hannibal, MO and Quincy, IL associated with ambulatory surgical suites to lower the costs and expand outpatient surgical services.

The proposed small-format hospital is not needed and would only add stress to our region's healthcare system. I encourage you to oppose Quincy Medical Group Hospital, project #20-044.

Thank you,
Stephen Halpin
Hannibal Clinic
Hannibal, MO 63401