

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 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.

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.

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,
Angie Loos
Blessing Hospital
Fowler , IL 62347

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Dear Ms. Avery,

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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. 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.

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Thank you,
Barb Kurk
Blessing Hospital
Quincy, Illinois 62305

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We do not need a second hospital in our community, we do not have the population to appropriately support it. Twenty one percent of rural hospitals are at risk of closing. Opening a second hospital, during this time, is an unnecessary gamble in a region that does not have a demonstrable need for additional hospital beds. A second hospital would not increase choice or quality of care, instead it would strain an already limited talent pool and resources, diminishing our ability to receive consistent, high quality care.

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Not only is there no need for another hospital since the population of Quincy and surrounding areas have not increased, and since the existing hospital, Blessing, has more than enough beds to address all community needs, I am concerned from a patient safety perspective. They can say they are not there to address mental health or other conditions, however if someone shows up at their hospital, under EMTALA, they would need to screen and treat until the patient can be transferred to an accepting facility. That may not occur timely and could negatively impact the patient. Additionally, labor and delivery is one of the highest risk patients and to have such services at a mini-hospital is a huge concern. At any given time the mother to be could be in distress, as well as the baby, and without an ICU, the outcomes could be deadly. What happens when their hospital is full but people continue to show up? They would not have the means to address the patients safely. Additionally, to staff this facility while there has been a nationwide shortage of nurses and other specialties just adds additional burden on to the existing hospital as well as could impact the quality and safety of patient care. As a person who resided in St. Louis and have lived in Quincy now for years, I can honestly say this community does NOT need another hospital. With Blessing, Hannibal Regional and other hospitals all within a reasonable distance away, to me, this would not make sense to build another hospital in Quincy. There was no need for 2 hospitals in the past and at this time or in the foreseeable future, there is no need for a second hospital.

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,
Carolyn Bailey
Blessing Corporate Services

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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. 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.

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Thank you,
Chelsey Graham
Blessing Hospital
Quincy, IL 62305

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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.

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.

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Thank you,
Iylis Brown
Blessing Hospital
Quincy, Illinois 62301

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I have been an employee at Blessing Hospital for ten years in May. I am proud to work here. I love what we do for our community and the people in surrounding areas. I feel that we are an amazing group of care providers who provide for a large population in our area but that does not mean that we have a large enough amount of people in our area for a second hospital. We have purchased several surrounding hospitals to help them stay in business and make them part of our Blessing family. I am also saddened by the rift I feel this whole QMG versus Blessing mentality has caused in our community. I feel like people are picking sides and trying to vilify us and make it seem as though we are the "bad guys". I do not feel that QMG needs to open a second hospital in our area for many reasons. I want the best for our community and I firmly feel this would not be the most beneficial thing to do at this moment in our town. Thank you for your time.

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,
Jessica Robinson
Blessing Hospital
Quincy, Illinois 62301

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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.

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Thank you,
Kiona Wright
Blessing Hospital
Quincy, IL 62305

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Regardless if a second hospital is built Blessing will continue to provide the top level of care to those in need. Because the sickest of the sick will still need an acute hospital. Allowing a second hospital only cuts into the financial side of the community.

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,
Lisa Surratt
Blessing Hospital
Mt. Sterling, IL 62353

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Thank you,
Pam Friye
Blessing Physician Services
Quincy, IL 62305

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Thank you,
Ryan Thurm
Blessing Hospital
Quincy, IL 62301

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Thank you,
Tammy Snyder
Blessing Hospital
Carthage, IL 62321

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I am also concerned with the possibility of this facility doing cesarean section and vaginal deliveries in a place where there is no Level 2 nursery staff available or a way to transfer a neonate that may need immediate resuscitation or a higher level of care. As a nursery and post partum nurse, I have seen first hand how a normally progressing labor or low risk c-section has turned in to a crisis for the neonate. Without the proper equipment, staff, and facility this could potentially put a mother or infant in a dangerous and life-threatening situation.

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,
Tina Womack
BLESSING PHYSICIAN SERVICES PEDIATRICS
QUINCY, Illinois 62301