

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.

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.

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.

I have been one of the many workers employed by Blessing before, during, and after this pandemic. I have always been made to feel like I am family while in my partnership with Blessing. Even though it would be a little bit farther of a drive for me, coming from where I live, I would continue to drive to Blessing Hospital for any and all of my families medical needs. This is such a small community, that when my family or myself walk through the doors of Blessing for any needs, they are always met no matter what time of day or night. Everyone is so friendly and willing to help each other or even a total stranger. Blessing continues to grow everyday, we are always adding new services and physicians to meet all of the needs of our community. I personally feel that a second hospital would take away from the home town feel and atmosphere we have within the doors of Blessing. As time continues to move forward, how many of the rural health clinics or rural hospitals are going to join in a partnership with Blessing, so that they can continue to support the families in their communities? I am proud to say that I have been a continued member of the Blessing Family for the last fourteen years, as well as my mother who was a LPN for twenty years before become ill. Please do not destroy our home town spirit, someday it is all we have to keep us going.

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,
Becky Schaller
Denman Services Inc.
Golden, Illinois 62339

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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 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,
Cynthia Cassens
Blessing Hospital
Camp Point, Illinois 62320

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Thank you,
Tracy Frese
Blessing Hospital
Quincy, IL 62305

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Thank you,
Mark Lichty
Blessing Hospital
Quincy, Illinois 65201