

March 31, 2021

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 support of Quincy Medical Group Hospital because, as an employee of QMG and Director of our Medical Oncology program, I believe it will allow us to provide patients a choice, more affordable access to care and a service not presently conducive to oncology care.

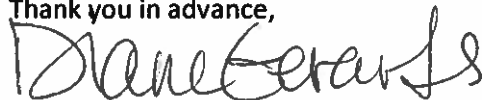
Quincy Medical Group Hospital will be patient centered, physician led and state of the art, expanding access to high quality healthcare services while reducing healthcare costs. This is the type of care we've been waiting to be able to provide in the inpatient setting.

The new hospital will allow doctors to care for their patients across all care settings, including overnight hospital stay, if necessary. This includes an opportunity to expand care specific to oncology patients which is not presently available in the area. Often our cancer patients need a place to offer monitored symptom management or pain control that may be only 24 or 48 hours. In a large scale hospital that individualize, cancer specific care is not available, often over diagnosed and subject to unnecessary testing and exposure. This environment will reduce ER visits as patients will be directly admitted and our oncologists would supervise those admissions and work to limit testing and unnecessary services. For cancer patients, an inpatient stay is also where families may make decisions for hospice. We will be able to make that transition and get patients home more readily in a physician led program with hospital at home/hospice care.

QMG has cared for families and the community for nearly 85 years. We are looking to the future and to providing care not presently available in our continued commitment to what our community and patients have share they want and need.

I encourage you to approve Quincy Medical Group Hospital, Project #20-044.

Thank you in advance,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane Gerards", written in a cursive style.

Diane Gerards
Director of Medical Oncology Services
QMG Cancer Institute