

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 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.

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.

As a member of this community and region for over 15 years and a provider of behavioral health services, recognizing the continued shortage of resources in this population, I feel intense concern as Blessing Health System as a not for profit organization utilizes the more profitable services to supplement the less profitable but essential services needed by the most vulnerable of our population. The Blessing Health System has consistently shown their commitment to this community in ensuring and expanding the provision of behavioral health services in the community and region, independent of patient's financial ability. I implore you, as you give consideration to this request, to please bare in mind the overall impact of this proposal by Quincy Medical Group, which will serve to undermine Blessing's ability to continue its outreach and endeavors to meet the entire health needs of all of the community especially our most vulnerable in the midst of these most emotionally difficult times for families.

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,
Ronald St Hill
Blessing Physician Services
Quincy, IL 62301