

March 3, 2021

Ms. Courtney R. Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Julie Duke and I work at Blessing Health System as Administrative Director of Revenue Cycle and I respectfully oppose this application to build a second hospital in our small community that will not increase access to care to those who need it most.

One of my responsibilities at Blessing Health System is oversight of the referral process so that patients may get access to specialists for their medical needs. My team at Blessing has most recently been informed by Quincy Medical Group that they will not accept Medicaid referrals from Blessing for Dermatology or Neurology services. This negatively impacts these patient's lives and severely limits access to care in our community.

Blessing accepts all Medicaid patients and works hard to keep patients in the community for healthcare services, especially the underserved Medicaid population. Blessing refers patients to Quincy Medical Group today based on the patient's request for a provider or based on the specific needs of the patient. With Quincy Medical Group (QMG) refusing to accept these patients, Blessing will continue to work with patients to ensure they receive appropriate care, but without a reliable partner in QMG our patients are often left waiting for extended periods of time or end up travelling out of town for these services.

Blessing's mission is to improve the health of our communities. This includes partnering with surrounding physician group like Quincy Medical Group to achieve the best outcome for the patients. Given QMG's current practice of not accepting Blessing's Medicaid referrals there is no reason to believe that, if this project is approved, the new hospital run by the Quincy Medical Group will not treat these patients.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 20-044 as this project does not increase access to care, it only creates care that is available for patients with the right insurance. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Julie Duke, MA, RHIA
Administrative Director, Revenue Cycle

A MEMBER OF BLESSING HEALTH SYSTEM

Blessing Hospital • Illini Community Hospital • Blessing Physician Services • Hannibal Clinic • Denman Services
Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences • Blessing Foundation • Blessing Corporate Services