

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,

My husband and I are writing this letter to encourage you to deny the CON for Quincy Medical Group to build a second hospital in Quincy, Illinois.

I am a retired registered nurse with over 45 years of nursing experience in the Quincy community. I've been serving the Quincy community my entire career. The first 20 years of my career, I was at St. Mary Hospital and the last 25 years at Blessing Hospital.

In 1993 the community boards of both Blessing and St. Mary Hospital came together and made the decision that the community could only support one hospital. We understood that if we wanted to keep up with advances in medicine and to bring nonavailable services to Quincy we would need to consolidate to one hospital. We did this to save patients from driving 2-3 hours. We knew that we needed to bring critical cancer and heart care close to home, both are leading health issues in our community. We did this to bring the best care.

Our population is basically unchanged since the 1990's, *so we do not understand how Quincy Medical Group believes the community can support two hospitals?* This issue has already been addressed once.

In the past as Quincy Medical Group has duplicated services already provided at the hospital I have questioned their "cherry picking" of patients. Where the existing Blessing Hospital has continued to provide standard level of care 24/7 to everyone regardless of their ability to pay. Blessing doesn't turn anyone away.

My husband spent 30 years in law enforcement in Quincy, IL and frequently was involved in assisting health care professionals in trauma care, cardiac care, and overdoses among other emergencies. *Is the 25 bed hospital going to be able to provide the same level of care or will they be diverting patients to the larger Blessing Hospital? Will there be wasted minutes if someone shows up with a heart attack or stroke and needing emergent cardiac catheterization, heart surgery or emergent neurosurgery requiring transfer to Blessing Hospital if the services are not available at the 25-bed hospital?* To us safe, quality care is of high importance to our community.

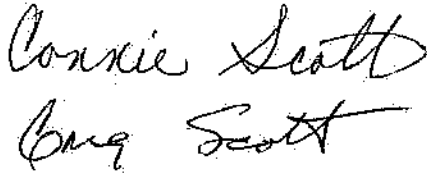
Before I retired in 2018 I remember seeing state reports that indicated west central Illinois already had more than enough hospital beds for the population served. I do not think this data would have changed significantly in the past three years.

My husband and I volunteer over 800 hours (even more during the Covid-19 pandemic) per year in the community at various agencies such as United Way, Open Hands Food Bank, Kiwanis Sewing Masks for public schools, Blessing Hospital, Quincy Hospitality House, and the COVID-19 vaccination center among others. We know how important it is for the community to come together to meet the needs of people living in our community and to listen to the voices of those people. Therefore, we support the initiatives most organizations in our community take in having community members on their boards. At

last check Blessing Hospital has community members on their board, but the proposed Quincy Medical Group hospital does not have any community board members.

We encourage you to deny Quincy Medical Group's application. We would welcome talking in person with members of this board if requested.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Connie Scott and Greg Scott. The first signature is 'Connie Scott' and the second is 'Greg Scott'.

Connie and Greg Scott  
3610 Mill Creek Valley Road  
Quincy, IL 62305