



March 4, 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 opposition of Quincy Medical Group Hospital. I believe I have a unique perspective as a business owner and as someone who also serves as an elected official. I feel a personal sense of responsibility to our community.

I've been a business owner for the past 25 years and my company, JH Construction is responsible for 35 employees. I know what it takes not only start a business, but to sustain a business, especially during times of uncertainty. I want to see our region grow, but it needs to be smart growth. We also need a strong hospital and we're very fortunate to have that in Blessing. We do not achieve better care or growth by adding a second, unnecessary hospital.

I also serve as alderman of the 7th ward for the last 12 years. My family and I live in the ward, we are proud members of this community and recognize the hardships many families are facing. There are no less than 17,000 residents in our county that live below the poverty level. Blessing serves everyone, regardless of their income and ability to pay. They don't turn anyone away, they never have and never will. Blessing also supports our community by investing in the region's social safety net, by supporting food and nutrition efforts and helping open a sensory room for autistic children among countless other efforts to help everyone in our community stay healthy and safe.

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.

The proposed second 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jack Holtschlag', written over a white rectangular background.

Jack Holtschlag

PO BOX 1088
QUINCY, IL 62306
217-224-9043
217-224-9121
WWW.JHCONCRETE.COM