

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 today to express my opposition to Application 20-044, Quincy Medical Group Hospital. I have concerns that this hospital will not meet the needs of the area community.

I was born and raised in Quincy, IL. I was born at Blessing Hospital, my pediatrician was Dr. Dennis Go of Quincy Medical Group, and I received health insurance as a child through my mom's 40+ year career at Knapheide Mfg. Co. Today, I'm a licensed engineer and in my role as Administrative Director of Facilities, Engineering and Development my team and I advance patient care through the healthcare facilities program at Blessing Hospital.

I want to dispel some of the misunderstandings Quincy Medical Group Hospital has put out into the community. In a January 2021 presentation, I witnessed Carol Brockmiller, CEO of Quincy Medical Group, call larger hospitals 'dinosaurs'. She also stated that most health systems are NOT investing in larger capital facilities, but rather small format strategies. This suggests that Blessing should also not be doing this, or is doing a disservice to the community by undertaking these investments. This message has been misleading to our local community and ignores the value that recent investments Blessing has made in service of Adams County during the COVID-19 have been nothing short of heroic and life-saving.

Let me outline how Blessing's work is vital for our community and how QMG's application doesn't add value and how their messaging is damaging:

- It is very concerning that the **Quincy Medical Group Hospital application does not include critical care beds also known as Intensive Care Units (ICU) beds.** By contrast, Blessing continues to maintain and invest in our critical care beds. Our sickest patients will not be served by Quincy Medical Group Hospital. I know this firsthand how critical these beds are as my elderly grandfather was cared for in Blessing's ICU department at the end of his life. Our community needs to understand how vital all service lines are to an efficient healthcare experience. Blessing's commitment to the integrity of our facilities ensures all levels of care are accessible. This commitment must be acknowledged in the Quincy community, and facilities must be an ongoing investment as a community resource.
- In recent years, Blessing Hospital has had a deliberate vision for serving the local healthcare needs for inpatient & outpatient care. **These efforts have been instrumental to improving access to healthcare, reducing costs, and preparing a response to all**

healthcare challenges, including responding to COVID-19. All of these initiatives have been in alignment with our community needs assessment while also impacting individuals like myself who seek healthcare in the community.

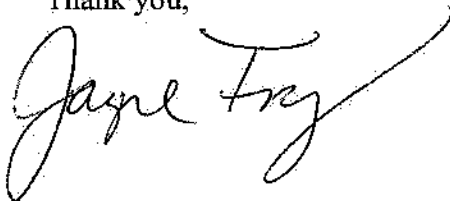
- **Blessing Hospital has been committed to the region's healthcare by continually investing in our healthcare facilities. Through our Master Facilities Plan, Blessing has been planning not just for the immediate needs but has been planning for the needs of the future.** For example, our new medical office building was a deliberate investment in increased access to care, at a lower cost while ensuring high quality patient care.
- **Blessing Hospital provides both ambulatory and acute inpatient care and strives to meet all patient care needs regardless of a patient's ability to pay.** During this unprecedented pandemic, we completed an expansion of our Moorman Pavilion inpatient tower and received occupancy from IDPH in 2020. This investment was instrumental in the preparations for an influx of patients to the hospital, and greater resources for isolation needs.

In addition to larger facilities capital, COVID brought many facilities challenges to existing care spaces. I'm very proud to lead a team of dedicated staff who have been instrumental in the hospital's response to COVID-19. This response required our facilities to respond to this challenging crisis with self-sacrifice, dedication, and an unceasing commitment to our patients. During the activation of Hospital Incident Command Structure (HICS), our Blessing Hospital facilities team was immediately deployed to prepare for many scenarios. Preparations included improving existing spaces for patient testing and screening requirements, providing clinicians with greater isolation precautions, and preparing for an influx of COVID-19 patients to the hospital. We also prepared alternate care sites in the event that we needed to explore new solutions to our post-acute care.

When the community stayed at home, we were asked to dig deeper and push further than ever thought possible. Every possible surge in the pandemic brought about a need to create greater solutions, and continue to make the impossible, possible. The demands on our facilities team were continuous, and we expended many hours and resources to sustain operations.

As you can see, this isn't the work of 'dinosaurs,' but the work of a hospital system that cares deeply for the community it serves. The proposed second hospital doesn't add value to our community 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 "Jayne Fry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.