

April 1, 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,

My name is Laura Kent Donahue. I am a lifelong resident of Quincy and represented Western Illinois in the Illinois Senate from 1981-2003.

The CON was created to ensure quality healthcare throughout ALL of Illinois. It was created to ensure that rural Illinois had similar access to the latest technology and services and that those opportunities were not concentrated in one particular area of the State. While I totally support competition, I'm not sure it's possible to have "fair" competition between a for-profit small boutique hospital and a large community not-for-profit hospital that provides the region's safety net.

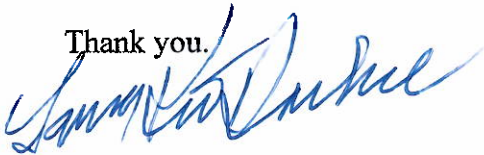
The Quincy I grew up in was a two-hospital town; St Mary Hospital and Blessing Hospital both served the community. But in the early 80's and with the much changing healthcare industry, it became apparent the community and surrounding area could not support both. There was much heartache and angst but, ultimately, St Mary Hospital was dissolved and became a part of the Blessing Healthcare System.

Since that time, the Blessing Healthcare System has grown and is providing access to care throughout western Illinois, northeast Missouri, and southeast Iowa. Allowing a small boutique hospital at this time will jeopardize the financial stability of Blessing Hospital's position as the safety net provider for Medicare, Medicaid, and indigent patient population.

QMG said in their application for their new surgery center that outpatient care is what's needed; however, 18 months later changes the narrative to hospital inpatient growth for a region that is predicted to see its census counts drop dramatically. I have fought hard to ensure our region's healthcare institutions are well positioned to succeed in serving the area's needs. The QMG application is jeopardizing the delicate healthcare ecosystem of the region.

The facts do not justify the need for a second hospital, and I urge this body to deny this application.

Thank you.



Laura Kent Donahue

A MEMBER OF BLESSING HEALTH SYSTEM

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