



**METROEAST AREA COMMUNITY OPPOSITION
TO DUPLICATE
PROJECTS
#21-011 & #21-017**

RECEIVED

JUL 07 2021

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

July 7, 2021

Via Hand Delivery

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

Re: Community Opposition Letter to Project #21-011 (Physicians' Surgical Centre, O'Fallon) and Project #20-017 (MetroEast Endoscopy Center, Fairview Heights)

Dear Ms. Avery:

The undersigned community leaders and representatives stand opposed to the duplicate applications by the same party in interest to add unnneeded orthopedic surgery services to limited specialty endoscopic surgery centers, namely, Project #21-011 (Physicians' Surgical Centre) and Project #20-017 (MetroEast Endoscopic Surgery Center). Please include this opposition letter in both project files.

Project #20-017 received no positive votes from the Health Facilities and Services Review Board at its meeting on September 22, 2020 and was issued an Intent to Deny. Since then, the only physician providing patient referrals to the project has formally withdrawn all referrals in writing. We do not understand why this project remains before the Board. In any event, we respectfully request that the Review Board proceed to issue a denial of Project #20-017, MetroEast Endoscopic Surgery Center, in accordance with the Board's prior Intent to Deny and in light of the absence of any referral volume to the project.

Project #21-011, Physicians' Surgical Centre, O'Fallon, is essentially a duplication of Project #20-017 at another endoscopy center owned by the same party in interest and located approximately three miles away from MetroEast Endoscopic Surgery Center. As with the prior project voted down by the Review Board, Project #21-011 similarly represents an unnecessary duplication of services and will not improve access.

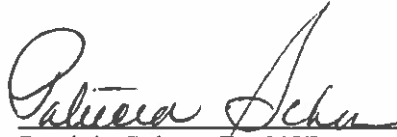
As the Board's staff found on the prior application, the area's six hospitals and two surgery centers (one newly approved) all provide orthopedic surgery services and have excess surgical capacity. Similarly, the project meets none of the Board's criteria for establishing increased access to care given: (a) the excess capacity in the area; (b) the absence of any restrictive admission policies; and (c) the project not being a joint venture with an area hospital.

For the above reasons, we request that the Review Board deny both projects.

Respectfully,



Chris Leidel, B.S., LEHP
Interim Administrator
Clinton County Health
Department



Patricia Schou, FACHE
Executive Director
Illinois Critical Access Hospital
Network



Crystal Albers
Clinton County Rural Health



Shane Westfall
Operations Manager
City of Breese



Brian Wilson (Jul 7, 2021 2:35:24 PM GMT)

Brian Wilson
Chief
Highland Fire Department



Kurt Prenzler
Madison County Board
Chairman



Judy Kuhn
Madison County Board
District One



Philip W. Chapman
Madison County Board
District Three



Kevin Immermann
Mayor
City of Breese



Bill Sullivan
President/CEO
Highland Machine Co.



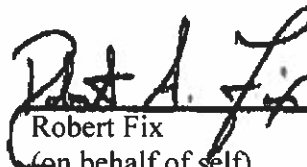
Hillarie Holzinger
Executive Director
Highland Chamber of Commerce



Shelly Schadegg
President
Breese Chamber of Commerce



Charles R. Kelley
Chief Operations Officer
Medstar Ambulance, Inc.



Robert Fix
(on behalf of self)
Former Chief of Police, City of Breese
Former Chairman, Clinton County Board