

To whom it may concern,

The recent public hearing on project #23-024 brought to light that the residents of DeKalb County do not want SABA Health Care owning or operating in the area. This was evident by the verbal and written testimony and concerns brought forward publicly not only by current nursing home residents, families, and staff, but also from the citizens who make up this county to include board members who stated publicly are not in favor of this sale. There are currently over 100 opposition letters on HSFRB site. There is overwhelming evidence that DeKalb County residents wanted a referendum to decide the fate of their 150-year-old, 27-million-dollar property. The citizens entrusted the DeKalb County Board and Administrator to oversee, manage, and PROTECT its interests for its county resident's benefit. The county incurred a short fall in revenue due to its failure to collect debt and oversee correct billing practices. This was further compounded by not securing needed contracts with insurance companies, which hindered DeKalb County Rehab and Nursing Center's ability to increase its revenue and more importantly, serve its community.

The public hearing also brought to light facts related to a well-documented pattern of poor care practices and poor staffing in SABA facilities as documented by IDPH findings to include abuse. Because the county board and county administrator failed to do their due diligence in securing a buyer with a good care record for our citizens, it caused the families and those who truly care for the resident's wellbeing in our county to do the research. This research was complicated by the county changing buyers. I don't think anyone was expecting to uncover the things that were found related to SABA's disturbing care issues as documented by IDPH surveys and complaint surveys. Findings of this research was turned in at the public hearing for HFSRB to easily review. However, all of this information is easily accessible on the IDPH website.

On page 17 of the CON, Purpose of Project Item #1.

*Document that the project will provide health services that improve the health care or well-being of the market area population to be served. **Attachment 12** does NOT state how this will be accomplished. The research shows that this is not possible with a company that owns and operates 1-star facilities to improve DCRNC which is currently a 3-star facility. Also, research of the homes the buyer currently owns and operates that they actually listed, show their facilities are trending down over last quarter related to all quality measures.*

*The CON also states on page 49 **Attachment 12**, that the project is explicitly designed to protect the provision of health services to senior citizens in the DeKalb Area. This application is quite literally the only option of continuing to provide nursing home services in DeKalb County. Absent the Boards approval of this project, this facility will seek to close and the facility that has served this community in one capacity or another for 170 years no longer be providing nursing home services in DeKalb County.*

This statement is false as county administration did not allow the nursing home to pursue contracts with any insurance companies to secure admissions. DCRNC receives approximately 3-400 referrals per year. There is most definitely a need to serve the DeKalb County area and this practice of not securing contracts has strangled the home from SIGNIFICANT revenue. Revenue that would have stopped the County Administration from being able to even propose that a sale was needed to its board members.

The DeKalb County Government acknowledges the need for the home and number of admissions in the CON with this statement: *this proposal exists as the only alternative to a complete discontinuation of nursing home services by the DeKalb County Government. This proposal offers an opportunity not just for DeKalb County Government, but for the hundreds of families seeking services every year at DeKalb County Nursing and Rehab.*

In addition, years ago the HFSRB approved a CON for a multimillion-dollar addition to be built on this campus with 18 private Medicare beds. The DeKalb County Administration denied nursing home requests to open this unit, which has the potential to generate between 3-4 million annually for the home. Revenue well above the needed "shortfall" the County Administrator presented to its county board in order to sell the home.

Many in our community feel lack of oversight and mismanagement of these two factors to generate revenue is perhaps intentional and verbiage in CON is threatening to county residents, families, and staff. The proposal that a sale is the only alternative it not accurate. Many feel if county administration had done research and the due diligence owed to its county and truly cared about the current residents that served our community before them, they would not have entered into a contract with these buyers and imply on pg. 50 **Attachment 13** that the new buyers bring decades of health care management experience that embodies the basic values of the board. It is not truly the only option of the board.

The information offered on **Attachment 13** also does not meet the criteria requested on pg 18 to identify ALL alternatives. 1-3 to include empirical evidence, including quantitative outcome data that verifies improved quality of care, as available. Evidence has been provided to the contrary. The county should have also provided the number of admissions not allowed to admit due to their direction of not securing insurance companies and how much money that cost the county.

Again, there is not a need to close this home.

Finally, when reviewing the CON please take into consideration that on page 46 these buyers did not provide an accurate and true listing of all of health care facilities currently owned and/or operated in Illinois, by any corporate officers or directors, LLC members, partner, or owner of at least 5 % of the proposed health care facility. They failed to list Morgan Park and California Gardens/California Terrace where they each have 27% ownership. The following questions 4,5,6, and 7 are all answered none. How can the HFSRB have confidence that every facility they have more than 5% ownership in is listed? Are there more? Would any of those questions need to be answered differently as it relates to possible judgements or fraudulent conduct or any act involving moral turpitude with homes they chose not to list on CON? For these reasons the board needs to consider the CON as it currently stands very closely.

Our elderly, whether it is this county or this country are not for sale, and due diligence as it relates to this process has failed every step of the way for our residents and our community. Please weigh your decision on this project with extreme care and consideration, as granting it the way it stands will impact many people for years to come in a negative way.

A Very Concerned Dekalb County Resident

7-19-23