

July 25, 2023

Dear Members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board:

As third generation DeKalb residents, we write to encourage you to deny the Certificate of Need to DeKalb Healthcare Holdings LLC. Over many decades our friends and family members have received excellent care at the DeKalb County Rehab and Nursing Center. I know that in the past few years there have been serious issues of debt and mismanagement at our county-owned facility, issues that aren't easily solved, but selling our local public treasure to a for-profit company that brings with it the poor reputation and ratings (by U.S. Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services) of Saba Healthcare can't possibly be the solution we're looking for.

Thanks for your efforts on behalf of the citizens of DeKalb County.

Sincerely,

Ellen & Steve Franklin
636 South Second Street
DeKalb

To: State of Illinois Health Facility and Services Review Board
From: Thomas and Pamela Burski
Date: July 24, 2023
Re: Proposed Sale of DeKalb County Nursing Facility

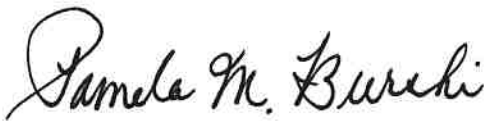
We urge this review board to **DENY** the proposed sale of the nursing home. As residents of DeKalb County for 40+ years, we believe the residents should have the opportunity for a referendum regarding the fate of the nursing home. The proposed buyer has a record of violations at other nursing facilities that it operates. We deserve better care than they have shown to provide. Please **REJECT** this sale and send it back to our county board. There is a lot of community support for retaining ownership of this facility. Our elderly population deserves quality care.



Thomas J Burski

15327 IL Route 23

DeKalb, IL 60115



Pamela M. Burski

Marilyn Cleland
518 S. 2nd St
DeKalb, IL 60115

July 24, 2023

State of Illinois
Health Facility and Services
Review Board
DeKalb, IL 60115

Members of the Review Board:

I am writing this letter to support offering the option of referendum to residents to determine important life questions. I believe as a citizen that the future responsibility for the DeKalb County Nursing should be left to the county, with a 165 year history of caring for their own elderly. Care should not be left with a franchise corporation with no connection to DeKalb County and with questionable quality of care. I believe the residents would vote by a strong majority for the county to retain responsibility for the DeKalb County Nursing Home, thereby rejecting the sale of the Home to a corporation. The long history of the Nursing Home and the high quality of care it has provided should be argument enough for keeping the home under local, tax-payer provided care. The care had been honorable, capable, and respectful of the dignity of the residents.

I say this because I witnessed the care given my mother, Beulah Landingham Ewert, from 2001-2003. I was there every week at various times of my mother's day. During those times, I observed high quality care offered to her and other residents. Her physical and medical needs were met competently, hygienically, and respectfully. She commented that her meds were offered at the same time every day, giving a person with type two diabetes and glaucoma, as she was, a sense of security. Her social needs were met by a program of various entertainments, including her favorite, listening to stimulating readings from articles and books by gifted readers; and, of course, her social needs were met by visiting with others at meal time and with her roommate throughout the day (intelligent placement of partners as I saw it). I ate with my mother many times (paying for my meals myself) and saw that the meals were tasty, healthy, and happily served. Most importantly, I could see that my mother was *known* and genuinely, gracefully, and respectfully cared for. My mother herself told me more than once that she was glad to be at this place at this stage in her life. We had offered to have my mother live with us. -- she would have been welcomed -- but she preferred for her own dignity to live in the nursing home. She was highly competent to the end and cared for by hospice in the last weeks of her life.

The DeKalb County Nursing Home was a gift to my mother and to her family. It is a gift to DeKalb County. Moreover, it has been a source of security for many residents through the decades.

It is time to do the democratic thing on this essential historic institution of care: give county residents the opportunity to vote via referendum on the proposal to keep DeKalb County Nursing Home in the hands of the county's residents. Let citizens vote on a matter of life significance: how we will care for our elderly. The county can guarantee a commitment. Corporations cannot. As corporations often do, they simply close if they fail to show profit, as other franchises do routinely in DeKalb. We could be left with no public nursing home at all.

The county should be proud of and nurture its historic institutions, not abandon them to corporations with no connections us. Let the citizen speak: place this proposal on a referendum.

Sincerely,



Marilyn M. Cleland
DeKalb County Resident



Since 1967
Adolph Miller, Realtor

MILLER REAL ESTATE - INSURANCE

Phone (815) 756-7845

710 E. LINCOLN HIGHWAY

DeKALB, ILLINOIS 60115

FAX # 815-756-8511

FARMS * HOMES * INSURANCE * COMMERCIAL PROPERTY * LOANS * RENTALS * APPRAISERS

MEMBER OF MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE

To Whom It May Concern:

Please Deny the Sale of the

"DeKalb County Nursing Home"

Sincerely,

For "Adolph" Miller
Owner / Broker
Taxpayer

July 24, 2023

State of Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St.
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Docket H-02, Project 23-024, DeKalb County Rehab and Nursing Center

Honorable Board Members:

Thank you for considering citizen viewpoints on a decision so crucial to our community, the licensing application and pending sale of the DeKalb County Rehab and Nursing Center. I am certain you have many missives to bear in mind as you weigh this decision, so I will be brief. I urge you to deny this application. In 2020 DeKalb County issued \$13,000,000 in bonds to expand our rehab and nursing center, a significant investment supported by DeKalb County residents. The sale price of \$8,300 represents an affront to the County's residents, and the track record of the would-be new owners raises very serious alarms.

According to the thorough HFS Review Board staff report and applicant statements, two of the managers of the proposed purchasing entities will be Moshe Blonder, Aaron Singer. Mr. Blonder and Mr. Singer already have significant ownership interests in ten Illinois nursing home facilities. In fact, per the Illinois Department of Public Health's web application for Nursing Homes, these two owners have a combined *majority interest* in eight of their ten facilities.

These owners have clearly put profit over care. As noted in your own staff report, their facilities have accrued 170 serious violations that document incidents with a "substantial probability" to have caused both "death and serious harm to residents." *Seven* of their ten care centers have the *lowest possible Medicare quality star rating, "much below average," 1 out of 5*; two facilities achieved "below average" rating of 2 of 5, "below average," and one achieved a 3 star "average" rating.

I've run award-winning not-for-profit arts organizations, and for 25 years served as an administrator at Elgin Community College (ECC). The last 15 years at ECC I was the dean of a large academic division, so I get grading scales. Let's be clear; achieving 1 out of 5 is the equivalent of an F, a failing grade. And I cannot fathom rewarding consistent, demonstrated failure with a lucrative, bargain-basement price that puts at risk fellow citizens when they are at their most vulnerable.

My beloved brother Paul, a Vietnam vet who sustained multiple concussions on the battlefield, died of dementia in an out of state nursing home. His facility had achieved a Medicare rating of 3 - average. It certainly wasn't good. But I can only imagine what a center with a rating of 1 looks like in practice (which is, per Medicare's understated phrasing, "much below average").

Your own staff report noted on page 8 that **"based upon the review of the information regarding these adverse actions it does not appear that the Applicants have the background to provide a proper standard of care."**

The staff report further notes that DeKalb County "considered one alternative to the proposed project and that is to close the Facility." This is not quite true. The DeKalb Board received a detailed financial analysis with models showing potential break-even by 2024 with different tax levy options. Yet in March of 2022, the County Board considered - and rejected - putting a referendum on the ballot for voters to consider a tax levy to support the DeKalb County Rehab and Nursing Center. We, county residents, were therefore denied the opportunity to decide the fate of this important community resource.

I urge you to deny this application and send the DeKalb County Board back to the drawing board to consider all other options.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Hatch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Mary Hatch, EdD

7/25/23

State of Illinois Health Facility and Services Review Board
525 W Jefferson St
Second Floor
Springfield, Il 62761
217/782-3516

The sale of the DeKalb County Rehab & Nursing Home should be voted against. If for no other reason, the price offered is ridiculous and a slap in the face to every citizen taxpayer in the county. The \$8.3 million sale price is **one third** of its estimated value and it doesn't come near the recent \$13 million dollar addition, plus the value of the original facility at its prime location that this same review board approved five years ago.

The corporate owners set to purchase the nursing home have an average 1-star rating for the 11 other Illinois nursing homes it operates. The corporation has accumulated 170 violations totaling several million dollars in fines. These violations are of the Type A and Type AA category that documents incidents for "a substantial probability" to have of caused both "death and serious harm to residents". I doubt this is what residents of DeKalb County want for their loved ones who would end up in a nursing home towards the end of their lives.

Thank you,
Tim Ball
1311 Lewis Street
DeKalb, Il 60115