

Debra Savage, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Chair Savage and HFSRB Board:

I strongly oppose the proposal submitted by Beloit Health System for NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital in Roscoe, Illinois.

It is clear to me that this project will damage our community and make it more difficult to get quality, affordable healthcare.

We already have more than enough hospitals in the area. When we go to one of the existing hospitals, we know the doctors and nurses because they live and work in our community. There are many healthcare reforms and improvements that we could bring to this area, but a shortage of hospitals is not one of our problems.

I oppose the idea of a Wisconsin business coming into our community to try to put our hospitals out of business. Adding another hospital, when we do not need one, is only going to make healthcare more expensive and make it harder for our hospitals to find the healthcare professionals they need to staff the facilities.

I am asking the Board to oppose this project and do what is right for our community.

Thank you.



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I am a practicing nurse who works in the area and I can tell you with certainty that this project would harm patient care in Winnebago County.

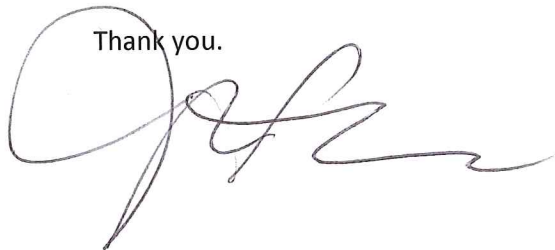
After reading Beloit's application, I do not think they have made any legitimate claims supporting the need for a new hospital in our area.

My number one issue as a nurse is supporting my patients and making sure they get access to the care they need in the right healthcare setting. Adding a new hospital in Roscoe is not necessary and would only lead to patients not knowing where to turn to. Most likely, patients arriving at the proposed Northpointe Neighborhood Hospital emergency room would need to be transferred to higher-level care facilities at other hospitals or out of state to Beloit Memorial Hospital.

HFSRB is supposed to stop unnecessary healthcare facilities which drive up the cost of healthcare – exactly what would happen here if the project were approved. There is already a nursing shortage throughout Illinois and in the Rockford area – adding a new hospital would only make this problem worse. Adding another hospital is not necessary in an area with seven (7) nearby hospitals and several trauma centers. We also have more than enough urgent care centers. Much of the demand for a hospital that Beloit refers to seems to be a Wisconsin problem not something facing Illinois residents living in the area.

Because of these worries, and other concerns, I urge the Board to oppose the proposed Beloit hospital. There are many options available to address the healthcare needs of our area, but this proposal is not what we need.

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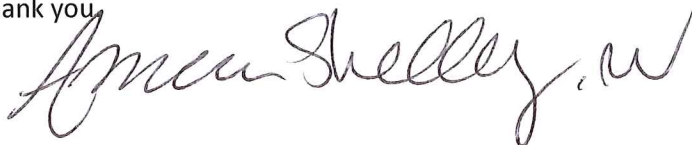
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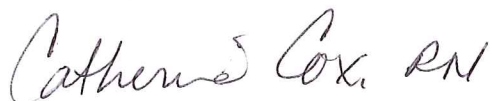
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Barbara Redenius RN.

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Emile Wignstra, LPN

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