

Illinois House of Representatives

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Jehan Gordon-Booth

Speaker Pro Tempore – Chief Budgeteer
State Representative – 92nd District

10/2/24

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

Chairwoman Savage and members of the IHFSRB,

I am writing to express my opposition to Beloit Health System, Inc.'s proposed NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital near Rockford, Illinois. The community I represent in Peoria is not very different from Rockford. This project came to my attention because I understand how fragile the healthcare system can be for a community like Rockford. I am concerned that the proposed project will damage the existing healthcare facilities in Rockford and has the potential to negatively affect other facilities in the state.

Beloit Health System's proposed new hospital will stress the resources of the current facilities for the benefit of the residents of the state of Wisconsin. This jeopardizes the ability of our Northern Illinois health systems to serve their community by targeting the higher income patients in those communities with the expectation of transferring them across the state line to Beloit Memorial Hospital. Existing health care facilities in this region rely on a diverse payor mix to be able to offset the care delivery necessary for the poor and underserved throughout Winnebago County.

Further, staffing continues to be a concern for health care facilities around the state, with many having to reduce services or close altogether. The introduction of a new hospital will further stretch the professional workforce, putting an additional strain on our current facilities. We have seen that hospitals are already struggling with staff shortages. We should not be introducing another hospital into our communities that will increase the pressure on our existing hospitals for qualified medical professionals unless they offer significant offsetting benefits to the community, which I do not believe this proposal offers.

Considering these concerns, I strongly urge you to oppose the new hospital and instead support the existing healthcare infrastructure. By investing in the expansion and improvement of our current healthcare facilities, we can ensure that patients receive high-quality care without risking patient safety, increasing healthcare costs, or destabilizing the Illinois healthcare market.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "JGB", written over a circular stamp.

State Rep. Jehan Gordon-Booth
Illinois 92nd District