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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

June 13, 2024

IL Health Facilities & Services Board

Attn: Debra Savage, Chairwoman

525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor

Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Opposition OSF St. Elizabeth Medical Centers CONs / Replacement Hospital, and
Discontinuation of facility

Dear Chairwoman Savage,

I write today to urge your board's rejection of the OSF proposal to close the current Ottawa hospital, build a new "hospital" in Ottawa, and move essential hospital services from Ottawa to Peru, IL.

In 2012, Ottawa Regional Hospital & Healthcare Center's board voted to affiliate with OSF Health System, essentially giving OSF assets valued at approximately \$58 million. For years Ottawa residents, medical professionals and businessmen had raised funding, founded, built, and governed the hospital as a community hospital, providing as the slogan said, "quality healthcare close to home." The board action placed trust in the expectation that OSF would continue Ottawa's hospital and services well into the future. It was not an easy decision.

Today Ottawa is facing a severe reduction on access to health care services and providers if the current I 80 plan for OSF is realized. The "new hospital" reduces Med/Surgical inpatient beds from 54 to 12, obstetrics is eliminated entirely, no ICU beds are planned, and operating rooms go to 2 from the current 5. The current twenty-six mental illness beds remain in the plan.

It strikes me that the plan was conceived with no input, not only from the current hospital doctors, nurses and staff, but also with no conversation or discussion with the City Council, the Chamber of Commerce, the County Board, Ottawa's Fire and Police departments, and local businesses.

The local group, Citizens for Healthcare in Ottawa, has compiled an extensive list of points seemingly not considered in the OSF plan. I urge you to meet with these citizens and develop a new plan. Of special concern is an apparent lack of consideration of police and EMT needs for the new hospital. Another unaddressed item is the transportation ambulance services that would have to be in place.

Thank you,


Caroline Campaigne

236 Forest Park Place, Ottawa, IL 61350

Former CHO board member