

Hi my name is Katie Nelson. I am a lifelong resident of Ottawa and have never sought care outside of Ottawa. I am a registered nurse, who worked within the Community Hospital of Ottawa-Ottawa Regional-OSF Healthcare System for 17 years before leaving nursing in 2016. I have MANY concerns about the current plan to reduce our services, but today I will highlight 2, due to the time crunch!

First, I was the Employee Health Nurse at OSF Saint Elizabeth's before "retiring" from nursing and feel the need to speak out on behalf of the mission partners I formerly cared for. There are mission partners who do not drive....they walk, ride their bikes, or get a ride to work. There are other mission partners who do not have a reliable car or would not be able to afford the added cost of gas to the OSF hospitals outside of our town.

Page 1

Katie Nelson
2053 North Lake Dr
Ottawa IL 61350

My second concern for today is for my family and myself! As the nurse in my family, I am the advocate, I am the one that they turn to when they have a medical concern. I review their medical care and am by their side, as the day allows, when they are sick! Having access to adequate inpatient care in our community allows me to be more physically present in their care.

It is important for the recovery and healing of our patients to receive support and care from their loved ones! Taking hospital beds out of our area will be a strain to the patients and the families in our community! OSF is attempting to use Ottawa and our surrounding communities to fill the beds of their hospitals in other towns! They need to make a plan that better serves ALL of the western Region...not just the towns to our east!

Please do not let this current plan pass!

Page 2

Kati Nelson
2053 Northlake Dr
Ottawa IL 61350