

From: [Janet Rosborough](#)
To: [Roate, George](#)
Subject: [External] Opposition Letter to CON 24-011 & CON 24-013
Date: Monday, July 15, 2024 10:45:01 PM

Dear Chairwoman Savage:

I am writing to you in opposition of OSF's plans to discontinue services at St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Ottawa and OSF's plans to demolish the hospital and build a newer, smaller facility that greatly reduces access to inpatient hospital services.

I know that you are receiving many letters from city officials and concerned citizens explaining how the current CONs are a detriment to eastern LaSalle county and specifically the city of Ottawa. My letter to you is a little different. You see, I have been a registered nurse in the state of Illinois for 40 years and a large amount of that time has been spent working for OSF HealthCare.

My professional career began with OSF when I completed a three year RN diploma program at OSF St. Anthony Medical Center School of Nursing, graduating in 1984. What drew me to the OSF program was the outstanding reputation they had for ensuring their nursing graduates had a well rounded education and unparalleled clinical experiences. We learned the importance of OSF's mission statement, treating patients with the greatest care and love. We worked alongside nuns and employees who lived this mission every day and set an example for all of us in the nursing program. I subsequently began working at St. Anthony upon graduation until moving to the Ottawa community a few years later.

I eventually began working as a bedside staff nurse at Community Hospital of Ottawa that subsequently became Ottawa Regional Hospital and Healthcare Center before becoming OSF St. Elizabeth Medical Center. My husband, a physician, spent part of medical school as well as residency working at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria and OSF St. Anthony Medical Center in Rockford. When the Ottawa hospital was acquired by OSF HealthCare in 2012, my husband made a comment that rang true with me, "it feels like coming home". I truly believed in OSF and their plans for excellent healthcare in Ottawa and the surrounding communities.

Fast forward to today. Our nation and our world have recently survived a deadly pandemic. However, the effect of that pandemic on healthcare in America, and specifically rural communities along with an aging population and other factors, has placed many areas of the country in jeopardy. I believe the look of healthcare may have to change to accommodate these effects. But I honestly believe that the current proposals by OSF HealthCare for this rural community is not in its best interest.

OSF HealthCare was and still is an incredible organization. I understand they must remain profitable in order to continue to provide excellent care. However, somewhere along the way, they have lost sight of the commitment they made to the communities they serve. For this reason, I ask you to vote against OSF's current proposals. Please ask them to come back to the table and work with city officials to create a plan for this community that not only honors the Sisters original vision for healthcare in Illinois but shows they truly remain committed to providing realistic access to the quality healthcare I personally know they can provide.

Thank you,

Janet L. Rosborough RN BSN