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IL Health Facilities & Services Review Board (“IHFSRB”)
Attn: Debra Savage, Chairwoman
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Ms. Savage,

I am writing to formally oppose Project #25-013, OSF Saint Elizabeth Medical Center’s proposal to discontinue its 5-bed Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and 14-bed Obstetrics (OB) services in Ottawa, Illinois.

I was born and raised right outside of Ottawa in Rutland Township and now live in Dayton Township. As a mom, it is concerning that services would be discontinued at a facility that has high demands for both services. My son at 5 years old had a seizure and it was the fast response times of getting him to the emergency room at OSF Ottawa that prevented him from having any damage. I wonder if this would have been the same outcome had we traveled to Peru.

As a business owner, I am worried about the impact the decision to downside services will have on our community. This decision could deter people from moving to the area, which directly affects revenue and finding employees.

As a part-time public defender, I work daily with some of most vulnerable citizens many being homeless. This decision would not only affect my clients being able to receive immediate care, but would also displace them in another town without the means to return for court dates.

For the above reasons, I urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to deny OSF’s application for Project #25-013.

Sincerely,


Heidi Nelson (formerly Emmett)
Attorney at Law