

From: [Cleve Threadgill](#)
To: [DPH.HFSRB](#)
Subject: [External] Attention: Debra Savage
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 1:16:56 PM

Re: Opposition letter for CON Project #25-013: OSF st. Elizabeth Medical Center, Ottawa -
Discontinuation of 5 bed intensive care unit & 14-bed Obstetrics Unit (Labor & Delivery)

Dear Chairwoman Savage,

I am in opposition to the OSF proposal that downsizes critical areas of need in Ottawa simply to satisfy their greed at the expense of the largest city in LaSalle County. Logistically, it makes no rational sense why the majority of care would be transferred to Peru. This problem is the direct result of allowing one hospital to take over an entire region, in essence monopolizing services. The local community has had little input in this proposal nor has OSF displayed any desire to include our stakeholders in the process. Its been lip service at best. OSF has ignored the best interests of the community since their inception in Ottawa in 2012.

I was serving as Superintendent of Ottawa Elementary Schools #141 in 2013 when OSF declared non-profit status and demanded we pay back the previous 3 years tax extensions in the total of \$378,000. The local high school had to pay back \$227,000. There was no forewarning, no offer to meet, nor was there any follow up after-the-fact. When this back payment took place, we were in one of the most significant financial crisis in our district's history. The post-recession drop in property taxes and inadequate state funding formula had caused layoffs and cuts across the board. Their complete disregard for the students of our community and the taxpayers who have to pick up the bill was a foreshadowing of the events we are experiencing today. This was a clear message that they could care less about our local schools and its stakeholders. Authoritarianism is their modus operandi.

As a follow up, I was invited to a meeting in downtown Ottawa the following summer that was inclusive of community leaders, city council members, and OSF. Their CEO at the time had the audacity to tell me in this public meeting that OSF couldn't recruit doctors because of the local schools, as though we were to blame for their incompetence in hiring practices. Once again, this illustrates the complete disconnect between OSF and the local community. The elementary district had a positive relationship with both the Regional Hospital of Ottawa and Community Hospital of Ottawa before OSF's arrival. Our student artwork used to be on display throughout the entryway of the hospital before OSF's arrival. Not afterwards. They have done nothing to be proactive within the Ottawa community except a donation to the local YMCA building fund, a donation that naturally stipulated an extension of their services.

I thank you for your consideration of rejecting the OSF proposal as I believe the impact will create a crisis for essential medical care in our region.

Sincerely,

Cleve Threadgill
Retired Superintendent, Ottawa Elementary School District #141