From: Barb Warsinskey
To: DPH.HFSRB
Subject: [External] Fw: Closing of Ottawa OB and ICU
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 7:55:37 AM

Members of the Health Facilities & Services Review Board,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed closing of the OB and ICU units of Ottawa's Saint Elizabeth Hospital and Healthcare Center located at 1111 North Ottawa Avenue, Ottawa, Illinois. I understand this plan was proposed by OSF (Order of St. Francis, whose headquarters are in Peoria). Their plan is to move these facilities to LaSalle/Peru, thus leaving Ottawa without those services. Potential patients would need to be transported all the way to LP. As you are certainly aware, the plan of OSF is to knock down the existing hospital and build a new facility across the street that would consist primarily of Psychiatric units with a few beds. I believe this will unfairly result in a vast reduction of medical services for the people of Ottawa, many of whom would then choose to go to the medical facilities in Morris, Illinois.

Though I now live in Ohio, I grew up in Ottawa. Many members of my family still reside in Ottawa and would be affected by this change. My father, Paul A. Gerding, was greatly involved with the fundraising and building of the original Ottawa Hospital, along with Dan Riordan, Mayor at the time, and Attorney Andrew O'Conor, Sr.

I have a vested interest in the preservation of the existing hospital. I am writing this to honor, not only my father's efforts, but the efforts of the countless residents who have already written in protest as well.

Sincerely,
Barbara Warsinskey