

Jerome Kapp
Edwardsville, IL. 62025
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To the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board:

I am submitting this written comment regarding **Project #25-043, The Hope Clinic for Women LTD**. My name is Jerome Kapp, a trained sidewalk counselor, and I have been a sidewalk counselor at Hope Clinic beginning in 2020.

I am deeply concerned about Hope Clinic's request to discontinue its **Ambulatory Surgical Treatment Center (ASTC) license**. While Illinois law permits a facility to relinquish this license under certain conditions, doing so would **remove critical safety oversight and the only mechanism for routine state health department inspections**—despite the clinic's history of documented deficiencies and its high volume of later-term abortion procedures.

Key issues informing my concern include:

- Hope Clinic **has not undergone a full inspection since 2022**, when it was cited for failing to follow emergency transfer protocols.
- There have been at least **26 reported medical emergencies between 2022–2024, with more being uncovered this year**.
- The facility advertises abortion procedures through **27 weeks, 6 days**, a level of acuity that requires meaningful oversight to protect patient safety.
- After a two emergency ambulance dispatches, which were reported to IDHP, I observed someone who appeared to be a state inspector arrive at Hope Clinic. **Within days, three exam chairs and other equipment were removed** from the facility. Perhaps these items had failed inspection, indicating a need for ongoing inspections.
- **Washington University School of Medicine students have participated in internships at Hope Clinic** as part of their training to become Obstetrician-Gynecologists. As such, a higher level of oversight is essential.

Given these concerns, I respectfully request that the Board:

- Require a full, comprehensive inspection of Hope Clinic before making any licensure determination.
- Ensure complete transparency regarding all steps taken in the licensure-surrender process.
- Consider the public welfare and patient safety implications of allowing such a high-volume, later-term facility to operate without ASTC oversight.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,
Jerome Kapp