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APR 06 2011

March 24, 2011

Dale Galassie, Chair  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

RE: Project #10-089 (Mercy Crystal Lake Hospital & Medical Center – Crystal Lake)

Dear Mr. Galassie:

As an employee of Sherman Hospital I am committed to providing high-quality services for our nearby communities. Sherman Health made a \$325 million investment to improve health care in the region with its replacement hospital. And it's paying off for residents of northern Kane and southern McHenry counties.

I believe that Mercy's proposed Crystal Lake hospital is unnecessary. It would create a duplication of services and would burden our already overwhelmed state and federal budgets. And, Mercy would need to increase rates to cover its expenses. That means taxpayers would have to pick up the costs.

Here are just a few of the concerns I'd like to raise about Mercy's proposed Crystal Lake hospital:

- A hospital in Crystal Lake would duplicate existing services in the area, which are easily accessible to Crystal Lake. Area providers already have more than adequate capacity to provide more services if they are needed.
- State data reveal that utilization rates for the surrounding hospitals average between 60 percent and 70 percent. This means that there is a combined total of hundreds of beds available on any given day at the six area hospitals.
- If a new limited service hospital were to be built, it would make all hospitals weaker. The hospital would draw patients from existing hospitals, undermining their long-term plans and making it more difficult to continue to provide free and deeply discounted services to those in need.
- The health care jobs Mercy proposes to create would not be new jobs. The permanent health care jobs would primarily be shifted from existing hospitals, weakening them, and bringing no new services into our community.

I ask the Review Board to reject Mercy's certificate of need application.

Sincerely,



Pamela T. Loewe  
232 New Haven Drive  
Cary, Ill 60013  
pambilll@aol.com

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