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Mr. Dale Galassie
Chairman
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

**RE: Letter of Opposition, Project # 12-081, Vista Medical Center –
Lindenhurst**

Dear Mr. Galassie,

I am writing to **oppose** the new Lindenhurst hospital proposed by Vista Health System. As someone who is concerned with preserving healthcare quality in Lake County, I believe that it is clear that a new hospital here would jeopardize vital services and programs, harming the existing infrastructure at the expense of a new and unneeded project.

Right now, Lake County has six full-service hospitals. The county is also home to a number of Freestanding Emergency Centers, ambulatory surgery centers and medical office buildings, where physicians see patients close to their homes every day. This is a well-served region—with just enough patients to sustain the major hospitals. Adding another full-service hospital represents an unnecessary and irresponsible expenditure of healthcare dollars. This expansion would come at a critical time with the implementation of pending changes in healthcare coverage. Federal and state governments' attempts to control provider costs will continue to be the focal point for achieving the necessary savings under these programs. Maintaining the existing quality and level of care will be a significant challenge for today's hospitals. Adding an additional hospital to the mix seems to me to be irresponsible given the likely environment over the next decade.

Further, the proposed project wouldn't provide anywhere near the same level of services as Advocate Condell Medical Center in Libertyville. But it would take away patients, which would hurt other hospitals' abilities to provide excellent healthcare for Lake County.

I oppose this project for the citizens of Lake County. We must preserve the critical services and programs that communities deserve. A new and unneeded hospital would upset a fundamental balance, and I ask you to deny it.

Sincerely, ~



David V. Milligan