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Mr. Dale Galassie

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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

Fax# 217-785-4111

Proposed Vista Medical Center – Lindenhurst

CON Project Number #12-081

To: Members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board:

We are concerned that Community Health Systems (CHS), Vista East's parent company, has requested permission to construct a new facility in Lindenhurst. In 2007, when CHS asked for state approval to reduce services at St. Therese Hospital in Waukegan, the company publicly committed to invest $70 million to advance health care in Waukegan, which has a large population of lower income families. This commitment was cited by local officials as the basis for their support for the changes requested by CHS. (Application 07-045, submitted March 1, 2007, p. 144)

If CHS has made this investment, it certainly is not readily apparent. To our knowledge there has been no accounting for how, or even if, that investment has been made.

We support improved access to care and improved health care facilities everywhere, but not if such development results in exacerbating the lack of care for lower income families.
We call on the state to demand a full accounting of how CHS intends to meet that obligation and for the Board to abide by its statutory requirement to assess the impacts of this application on underserved populations who rely on safety net health care providers.

We further call on the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to withhold approval for CHS and Vista Health to construct a new hospital in Lake County until the company shows it is living up to its prior commitment and that the project will not have a detrimental impact on safety net health care services in Lake County.

Sincerely,

Meta L. Levin, Highland Park, IL
Phyllis Dolinko, Highland Park, IL
Edie Reese, Mundelein, IL
Sharon Stein, Highland Park, IL