



Aaron Lawlor
County Board Chair

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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

Re: Letter of Concern, Project #12-081, Vista Medical Center – Lindenhurst

Dear Mr. Galassie:

I appreciate you and colleague's diligent work on the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board. I truly value the board's service and commitment to health care.

As you know, the Lake County Board supported Vista Medical Center's previous applications for expansion. This fall you also heard testimony from some Lake County Board members. I respect their individual opinions and share their concern for improving access to quality health care in all areas of the county. However, it is important for you to know that the County Board has not taken a position on Project #12-081.

I urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review to take a data-driven and analytical approach in evaluating the proposal, current health care market, number of available hospital beds and how recently constructed health care facilities like freestanding emergency centers impact the overall health care system.

It is also important that we keep our commitment our six existing full-service hospitals in the county and, more importantly, that they keep their commitment to us. Lake County has a diverse population with wide-ranging needs and an increased demand for charitable care. Each hospital, including Vista, plays a critical role in our county by maintaining quality facilities, providing services that meet residents' health care needs and investing in our communities. We must measure all of our hospitals' performance against the commitments that they have made to us.

Finally, the existing area hospitals are some of the biggest employers and economic engines in Lake County. These strong community partners supply thousands of primary and secondary jobs, not to mention their significant economic impact on the surrounding areas and generous contributions to the fabric of life here. We need to keep these major employers strong for our communities.

I ask that the Board clearly evaluate market conditions, ensure that commitments that have been made are kept and render a decision that is in the best interest of the entire county's health care system.

Sincerely,


Aaron Lawlor
Lake County Board Chairman