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JUN 24 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

June 23, 2014

Ms. Kathryn Olson Chair  
Illinois Health Facilities and  
Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson  
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Project 014-015  
The Carle Foundation Hospital  
**LETTER OF OPPOSITION**

Dear Ms. Olson:

I am sending this letter to make clear that area providers object to Project #14-015, which proposes the addition of 48 medical/surgical beds to The Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana, Illinois.

There is a clear excess of beds in the planning area as documented in the state's own calculation. More importantly, this is a duplication of services that has the potential for significant negative impact to all of the area hospitals that are in the top 10 counties from which Carle draws its patients. In my role as a pathologist I work with several of these hospitals and am familiar with all of them. Giving Carle the ability to grow at the expense of the other hospitals will negatively impact patient access to timely medical care close to their homes. There is little to no population growth in our area and since the rate of hospital admissions for a population is expected to decrease as shown by all industry trends, the survival of the smaller local hospitals which provide critical services where patients live will be severely threatened, for no other gain than Carle getting bigger.

These hospitals -- Presence Covenant Medical Center, Presence United Samaritans Medical Center, Iroquois Memorial Hospital, Gibson Area Hospital and Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center, all located in Carle's top 7 counties of patient origin -- provide a vital service for the patients in these communities. And yet, a detrimental pattern has been occurring even when Carle has primary care in these smaller towns. Carle has established primary care centers in four of these communities and in some cases Carle's employed providers have stopped utilizing the local facility in favor of moving patients to Carle-owned facilities. This has occurred in Danville where long-time providers at the local hospital have either been moved out of the community to a Carle facility or have begun treating their patients in a more distant Carle-owned facility either full-time or part-time. This is a trend that does foster Carle's growth but at the expense of the local safety-net hospitals.

Presence Covenant Medical Center + 1400 West Park Street Urbana, Illinois 61801 217.337.2000  
Presence United Samaritans Medical Center + 812 North Logan Avenue Danville, Illinois 61832 217.443.5000  
presencehealth.org

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I request that the board deny this expansion on Carle's part as outlined. I would hope that Carle and the other hospitals can sit down together to explore possibilities for pursuing the alternatives outlined in the regulations – joint venturing or identifying some way of using available resources and serving the patients in these communities in their home towns instead of asking them to travel greater distances to Carle owned care.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Krishnarao Tangella".

Krishnarao Tangella, MD *MBA FCAP*.  
Regional Medical Director of Laboratory, Central State Region  
Presence Covenant Medical Center and Presence United Samaritans Medical Center