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**AUG 05 2014**

**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

August 4, 2014

Kathryn J. Olson, Chair  
Illinois Health Facilities and Service Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson, Second Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Carle Foundation Hospital, Project 14-015

Dear Ms. Olson:

I am writing to you today in opposition of Carle Foundation Hospital's request for an \$18 million expansion to add 48 medical/surgical beds.

My concern is the effect this expansion would have on the citizens in our community, particularly in the greater Danville area. As the Chairman of the Board of Directors for Presence United Samaritans Medical Center, I have seen and heard first-hand about how business strategy decisions made by Carle are already having an impact on healthcare here. I fear that this expansion, should it be granted, will exacerbate the situation even further.

For many years, Carle Clinic primary care physicians in Danville admitted patients to United Samaritans, and patients were able to receive care close to home. In the past year, Carle terminated its contract for hospitalist services, and in a letter to their Danville patients suggested that should they need hospital care that they should use Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana. How is this good for our community to send patients up to 40 miles away to get the same healthcare services they would have been able to get right here in Danville?

Carle specialists are also leaving the United Samaritans medical staff, leaving us at times with no coverage for certain specialties. Carle's cardiologist who was in Danville for many years recently relocated to Urbana. Carle's general surgeon in Danville also reduced his privileges to courtesy status and is now performing the majority of his cases instead at Carle facilities.

Should Carle continue to be allowed to expand, this situation may continue to play out here as well as at other small community hospitals. My understanding is that Carle is saying they are full and need these beds. Well, I would argue that they are full because they have shifted patients to Urbana, making patients and family members of those patients drive down I-74 back and forth when it otherwise would not be necessary.

I am a lifelong resident of the Danville area. My family business is here, my family is here, and we need our local hospital to be here and to continue to be a driving force in this community. United Samaritans has been providing excellent care for our citizens for more than 125 years. The next time any of my family need healthcare, I want them to be able to receive those services here in our hometown. I feel the proposed expansion could severely threaten our ability to do so.

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**Vermilion County Title, Inc.**

112 N. Vermilion St.  
Danville, IL 61832

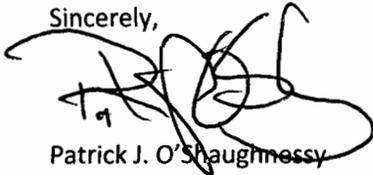
 Agent for  
Chicago Title Insurance

Phone: 217-442-0510  
Fax: 217-442-1026

The Danville area remains a community with a diverse population and one that continues to struggle with poverty, unemployment and a lack of adequate health care coverage for a large percentage of our residents. I fear that a Carle expansion at the expense of Presence USMC and other providers, will severely hamper those most in need in satisfying the medical needs they face every day. Presence is more than our local hospital. It is a community partner and a community friend, and like any good friend, it is one we need around for many years to come.

I urge you to uphold the intent to deny this project, to protect my community's best interests and to preserve our ability to make our own choices of who provides our healthcare in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Patrick J. O'Shaughnessy', written over a light blue background. The signature is stylized and somewhat illegible due to the cursive and overlapping lines.

Patrick J. O'Shaughnessy  
President