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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

November 5, 2014

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services
Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, Second Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Project Application #14-043

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing this letter to express my opposition to the application of St. Elizabeth's Hospital for a certificate of need to move from downtown Belleville to the O'Fallon area.

As a person who has practiced my profession in Belleville for over 30 years, I am quite familiar with both St. Elizabeth's Hospital and Memorial Hospital. A number of my family members and friends have been treated at each hospital, and I myself have been a patient at each hospital. Over the years I have made financial contributions to Memorial Hospital, and I have also served as a volunteer for the Memorial organization.

As a supporter of Memorial Hospital, my primary concern is the adverse effect that a move by St. Elizabeth's Hospital to the O'Fallon area would have on Memorial Hospital East, the construction of which is well under way. As you know, Memorial Hospital sought and received approval from your Board prior to undertaking the serious financial commitment necessary for this construction project. It is my understanding that the essential purpose of your Board is to prevent the duplication of health services within close proximity of similar services, to avoid saturating one geographic area with such services at the expense of other geographic areas.

My second concern regarding the possible move of St. Elizabeth's Hospital is the effect that such a move would have on access to health care in Belleville. As a person who resides in a community south of Belleville, I am particularly aware of the additional travel time that would result from such a relocation of St. Elizabeth's Hospital. This increase in this travel time would not only be greatly inconvenient to patients and family members residing south of Belleville, but could also be life threatening.

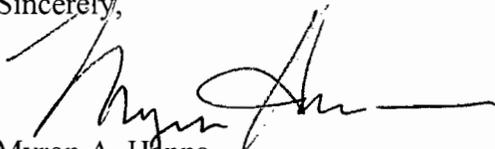
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Finally, the removal of St. Elizabeth's Hospital from Belleville would adversely affect both the community at large and Memorial Hospital's existing Belleville facility (which remains Memorial's primary facility). A city of the size of Belleville requires more than one emergency department to adequately provide emergency care. The elimination of St. Elizabeth's Hospital from Belleville would leave only Memorial Hospital to treat the entire Belleville population, a task for which Memorial Hospital may lack adequate resources.

Based on the above, I urge you to deny the application of St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Myron A. Hanna

MAH/ls

cc: Mr. Mike Constantino, Supervisor
Project Review Section
525 West Jefferson Street, Second Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761