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March 24, 2017

RECEIVED
MAR 27 2017
HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Ms Olsen

Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board

525 West Jefferson Street, Second Floor

Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Opposition to Proposed New Mercy Hospital In Crystal Lake, CON #17002

As a representative of an organization that serves seniors who are high users of hospital services, I want to express my **opposition** to the construction of a 13 bed hospital in Crystal Lake.

The area is already well-served by hospitals. Four full service hospitals are located within 20 minutes of the proposed site. There are also two immediate care centers within just four minutes of the planned Mercy Crystal sites.

I understand that one of the rationale for the new hospital is to provide access. The area hospitals already provide door-to-door transportation service. In fact, Good Shepherd Hospital provides this transportation service free of charge.

I am concerned that this proposed small hospital with only limited services will be cause confusion to the area's seniors and the ambulance services. When emergencies such as heart attack or stroke arise in Crystal Lake, will this small hospital be able to take care of these patients? The seniors in our area are accustomed to going to the nearest community hospital for care and expecting a full range of services to be available. I understand that this proposed hospital will simply observe or triage and then transport many of the emergency patients to existing area hospitals. I am concerned that this delay in care will risk the patient care and safety. Transferring seniors will only cause unnecessary cost and stress to our area's seniors, who can be easily overwhelmed and confused in medical situations.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opposition to the construction of a new 13 bed hospital in Crystal Lake.

Sincerely,

Joyce Palmquist,
Executive Director