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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
 SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

January 22, 2019

Ms. Courtney R. Avery
 Administrator
 Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
 525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
 Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois

Dear Ms. Avery:

I write this letter in the capacity of chairman of the Blessing Corporate Services Board of Trustees. Blessing Corporate Services is the parent entity of the Blessing Health System, of which Blessing Hospital is an affiliate.

I respectfully oppose the CON application referenced above.

Blessing has made tremendous progress over the past 20 years – growing from a solid community hospital to a strong regional healthcare provider. Along the way, we have remained dedicated to convenient, local access to the widest variety of care possible. We have also never forgotten or forsaken our non-profit mission of providing care to all in need, regardless of ability to pay.

That mission includes the offering of vital safety net services, including trauma care and behavioral medicine. These are services that directly impact the quality of life of every resident in this community – and they cannot survive financially without a large subsidy.

Blessing, with the support of this community, keeps this safety net of vital and costly services in place and of the highest quality. Indeed, in communities all across Illinois, non-profit healthcare survives in a delicate environment where revenue must be generated to offset losses sustained in the delivery of safety net services.

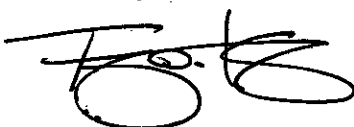
Opening a new for-profit, outpatient surgery center would upset the balance. It would divert millions of dollars realized from outpatient surgical procedure, money that is needed to help provide safety net services. Corporate profits for QMG and its out-of-state partner UnityPoint will come at a great cost in lost safety net services. The community will suffer.

As an employer in the community, I wouldn't write this letter if I thought the community would benefit from these new services. However, the need has been met for more than a decade, and continues to be met every day, through the current outpatient surgery center on the QMG campus.

QMG was previously awarded a surgery center CON. However, after running one for a period of time, chose to sell the surgery center to the Blessing Health System, while retaining a management agreement. I believe this speaks volumes. The greater Quincy community benefits today from services offered through cooperation between Blessing and QMG, not additional duplicated services.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042.

Sincerely,



Timothy D. Koontz