

1/29/19

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FEB 04 2019

**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

I, Brenda McCann work at Blessing Care Corporation DBA Illini Hospital in Pittsfield, IL. I am not in favor of a new surgery center in Quincy, IL.

Blessing Hospital and Quincy Medical Group currently have a working surgery center that is working well. The proposed center would compete with outpatient surgery currently owned by Blessing Health System on the QMG 11<sup>th</sup> and Hampshire campus and managed by QMG. If the new surgery center would be built; Blessing Health System would no longer be connected with QMG and this will hurt Blessing Health System.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042 or Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely/Very truly yours/Respectfully,



Brenda McCann

January 29, 2019

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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

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

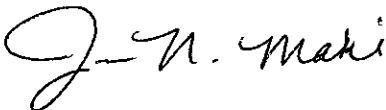
Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Jenna Maki and I'm the Performance Excellence Coordinator at Illini Community Hospital. As a member of the Tri-state community and also the local healthcare community, I strongly oppose CON 18-042: Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois.

Blessing and QMG, partnered together, already offer an outpatient surgery center located on the QMG campus in Quincy, IL. This has been a successful partnership for a decade now. Not to mention, the damage it will cause to the Safety Net and community benefits that Blessing Health System abundantly provides. The healthcare Safety Net is vital to our community and currently, Blessing is the only provider for some of these critical services. By opening a new outpatient surgery center, this would result in a huge revenue loss to the current surgery center, which would then result in a huge loss of revenue needed to maintain our communities Safety Net services. There is absolutely no vital need in our community to open another outpatient surgery center. This will result in more damage than community benefit.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042: Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jenna N. Maki

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1/25/2019

FEB 04 2019

**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Abby Whiston and I have been an employee of Blessing Health System for nearly 3 years. I currently am the Office Coordinator for the newly established Blessing Weight Loss Center. I have lived just across the river in Palmyra, Missouri my whole life. Being such a small community, I have benefited from many of the amenities that Quincy offers. I respectfully oppose CON 18-042 to add a second Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois.

As I stated above, I currently am working for the Blessing Weight Loss Center that opened in January of 2018. This service is a need in our community. Data from the CDC showed that Adams County was the most obese county in the state of Illinois. Missourians also suffer from obesity with more than 32.4% affected with this disease. Blessing Health System made the choice to accept Medicare and Medicaid to help make change in our community. Many other weight loss programs do not accept patients with these insurances, even though statistically they are the population who would most benefit from these services. Our duty at the Weight Loss Center is to provide support to patients who are seeking help with losing weight by educating them through dietary choices, learning the importance of exercise, and changing an individual's mindset and behaviors to create a healthier lifestyle. These visits are not profitable to the hospital and need support from other services like the revenue made from the surgery center to continue to provide for our patients as our new program continues to grow. Patients have to drive nearly 2 hours to receive services similar to what we offer at our Weight Loss Center, and that is not a guarantee they will have the insurance coverage. With many of the under privileged individuals we serve, this would be an impossible trip for them to make, leading to detrimental effects to their health. Preventative care is the new direction that health care is beginning to implement across the nation. By helping patients with weight issues, we are also helping to manage many other health issues like Diabetes, Heart Disease, and Hypertension. This helps to lower costs for individuals and all health payers by helping to prevent or manage chronic diseases related to obesity. The new ACS threatens Blessings ability to continue to offer this important service to our community.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Abby Whiston

January 31, 2019

Ms. Courtney R. Avery

Administrator: Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

525 West Jefferson 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Springfield, IL 62761

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FEB 04 2019

**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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

As a nurse and lifelong resident of the Tri-State/ Quincy area, I am concerned regarding the proposed Surgical Center for Quincy Medical Group. Over the last 16 years, Quincy Medical Group (QMG) and Blessing Health System (BHS) have both owned and managed the current health center. Neither agency has been able to utilize the current Surgical Center that Quincy has in place, to full capacity. Average usage is between 52% and 76%, depending upon the data compared. This shows clearly that an additional center is not needed.

Quincy and the Tri-states have a large psychiatric community. Many people are seen in the behavioral health area, and more could be seen with additional bed capacity availability. If revenue is removed from BHS, there will be a financial consequences in the behavioral health community. BHS, as a non profit, subsidizes many residents behavioral health care. With reduced funding, where will these people go?

There is also the issue of staffing. With reduced revenue, BHS will possibly have to cut positions within their system; some predictions are saying possibly 300 jobs. This data alone is concerning, as the Tri-State region cannot afford another loss in wages, tax revenue from property tax or sales tax. People leave the area, they do not come back. These losses will be far reaching for the region at one third the projected job loss.

Based on these two issues (behavioral health and job loss) I am against the opening of a new surgical center for QMG.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda Gail Obert, BS LPN

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January 29, 2019

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Alice Glasgow RN, MSN and I am part of the Blessing Health System. I work in Education at Illini Community Hospital. I am very concerned about the application for an additional surgery center in Quincy, Illinois. An additional surgery center would provide duplicate services for our community. I am in opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois.

In addition, the duplicate services would cost the Blessing Health System a loss of revenue which may affect services and jobs. Services that do not fully fund themselves may be placed in jeopardy which would hurt the community due to a loss of revenue. A concern of mine is how the potential loss of revenue may affect psychiatric services which do not pay for themselves fully. The Emergency Department is another service that is not always able to fund itself. These two departments alone provide crucial care for not only the patient but also their families. Without psychiatric services, patients and their families would have to travel to access mental health care. This can be a hardship on the patient and family. The Blessing Health System acts to improve the health of our community and provide these services. Any time there is a potential loss of revenue for an organization, jobs may be lost. A loss of employment would affect families and other businesses in the community.

As a clinical educator, I am concerned how the loss of revenue to the Blessing Health System would harm our students in health profession courses. Blessing Health System provides financial support to Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences and the SIU Family Medicine Residency Program. The potential loss of revenue to the college and residency program would hurt our community for the future of healthcare.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Alice Glasgow RN, MSN

1/29/2019

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Ryan Hamann, I am the Compliance and Construction Manager for Illini Community Hospital in Pittsfield, IL. I am writing to you in reference to Quincy Medical Group's interest in building a surgery center in Quincy, IL. I feel that the State of Illinois should deny the CON for this project.

Quincy is a small market and is currently served by Blessing Health System for these needs. This market is also served by options in Hannibal, MO. I cannot see the point in opening another surgery facility in Quincy and saturating the market. By doing this the result could actually make cost go up for the end user and only provide redundancy.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042 for above stated reasons. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Ryan Hamann

Construction Manager

Illini Community Hospital

January 29, 2019

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

**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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

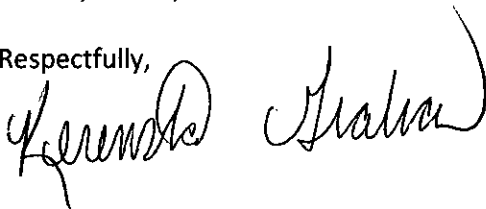
Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Kerensta Graham , RN . I have worked for Illini Hospital for the past 20 years. I oppose the CON-042 , Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy Illinois.

The basis of my objection is that I feel that this would be a duplication of services in the Quincy area and create a potential loss of jobs. Thank you for your consideration in this matter which could directly affect my job and potentially 400 other jobs for our facility.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042 . Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kerensta Graham", written in black ink.

1/30/2019

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am Gina Eickelschulte, lead radiation therapist, at Blessing Health System in Quincy Illinois. I have been an employee at Blessing hospital for over 30 years.

I strongly oppose having another Surgery center in Quincy, Illinois. There is not a need in the community and it would duplicate services, taking away from what Blessing Health System and Quincy medical Group have built together. Not to mention job loss, benefit services and programs to the community that Blessing contributes to yearly. Quincy deserves cooperation within our medical entities provided here. I have been involved in the health care business for many years and I no longer see Quincy Medical Group wanting to work with Blessing Health System in providing the best and most efficient care from both providers to the Quincy community. Greed is driving Quincy Medical Group instead of care and concern for what is best for patients and the community.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Gina Eickelschulte R.T. (R)(T)



January 30, 2019

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

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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

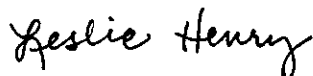
Dear Ms. Avery,

My name is Leslie Henry and I work as a social service case worker for Blessing Hospital. I oppose the CON 18-042 proposed by Quincy Medical Group. **I feel the benefits proposed by QMG are not substantiated when considering the loss of social support to our community's underserved population.**

As an example, I would like to tell you about a patient I had the privilege of serving a few years ago. I will call her "Morgan" for the purpose of this letter. Morgan was a young woman in her early forties who worked full-time at a nursing home as an aide. Her employer's health insurance was too expensive for her to afford so she did without, hoping for the best. She began having sinus infection symptoms and saw her primary care doctor in rural Missouri for treatment. After several rounds of antibiotics, she found no relief. In fact, her symptoms were progressing into more severe headaches, dizziness and head pressure. She presented to Blessing's ER for a work-up and was found to have a tumor on her brain. Out of that ER visit, she received a referral to a QMG specialist who determined the tumor needed to be removed. However, the QMG specialist was adamant he would **NOT** perform the outpatient surgery unless she could pay **PRIOR** to service. Morgan had no income as she had stopped working due to her condition. Unfortunately, she did not progress to surgery purely as a result of her inability to pay. She did continue to come into Blessing's ER for symptom management and while at one of those visits was referred to Blessing's Financial Account Specialists (FAS) for help. I was working as a FAS at the time and took her referral. Through the FAS screening process, we identified that she may be eligible for Medicaid through their aged, blind and disabled program. Morgan felt overwhelmed by the process of applying, as many of our patients do, so I completed the application with her and submitted it on her behalf. I will never forget making the call to her to say she had been approved. She cried tears of relief as now she had an avenue with which to seek care. Had Morgan not been connected with Blessing, she likely would have never gotten the surgery. At our last point of contact, Morgan's outlook was bright and she was expected to make a full recovery post-op. Her ending could have been much different had she not had the social support of Blessing to allow her to receive excellent care at Quincy Medical Group.

I believe that a continued partnership between Blessing and Quincy Medical Group will produce the very best outcome for our community. If QMG proceeds with this center on their own, those who do not have the skills to advocate for themselves will suffer. They, like Morgan, will be turned away and likely go without care. Thank you for considering Morgan's story. **I urge you to deny CON 18-042 for QMG's ambulatory surgery center so that we may continue partnering together for the good of our whole community, not just those with the ability to pay for their services.**

Sincerely,



Leslie Henry

1/30/2019

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

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Rhonda Daniel, RN, I currently work as a Care Manager in the Care coordination department for Illini/Blessing Hospital. Care Coordination is a department of the hospitals which assist patients with various needs that affect their health. I have been a nurse for over 30 years and have worked for both Blessing and QMG. I feel allowing Quincy Medical Group to open the outpatient surgery center would not only be a duplication of services but would be **detrimental** to the needs of the community.

***Why try to fix something not broken?*** We currently have a surgery center that is co-partnered by both facilities that is and continues to be beneficial to all the surrounding communities. This has been a very successful partnership and if this partnership would end it will cause significant loss of services for the communities. As a care manager I currently work with the most vulnerable population. Without Blessings not-for-profit programs many patients would not receive the care they desperately need. I have been blessed to be able to assist many patients in the past 10 years receive the care they need and deserve through the funding provided by the Community Benefit Program. For example: helping patients with obtaining medications critical for their health, assisting an older couple get their heat fixed and gas assistance for a pediatric child to get to his appointment. Without these Safety Net Programs these services would not have been possible. Additionally, opening a second surgery center would harm the educational services offered in our community. Blessing provides several programs that assist the educational needs of students who are studying to go into healthcare in our surrounding area. ***The community deserves collaboration and not opposition.***

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board **deny** CON application 18-042. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Rhonda Daniel, RN

January 30, 2019

Ms. Courtney R. Avery

Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor

Springfield, IL 62761

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HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

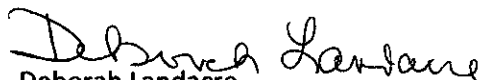
I am a 40+ year Registered Nurse, and an employee of Blessing Hospital for 38 years. As both an employee of Blessing Hospital and a consumer of health services in Quincy, IL, I oppose CON 18-042.

The Quincy Medical Group proposal is a duplication of services. There is no need for additional outpatient surgery in Quincy.

Services provided by Blessing Hospital to those in-need, without the resources to pay, would be jeopardized due to lack of financial resources. Serving a large Medicare and Medicaid population, the community is at risk of being unable to help these people.

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

Sincerely,

  
Deborah Landacre

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FEB 04 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Darrell E. Thompson  
325 N. County Rd. 820  
Sutter, IL 62373

January 29, 2019

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

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

I have been a volunteer Chaplain Assistant at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL for six years and, as such, firmly believe that true healing of the body includes that of the mind and spirit as well. My role as a Chaplain Assistant is twofold; one, to visit patients that have been admitted to the hospital in the past 24 hours and, two, to pray with those patients who are scheduled for out-patient and one-day surgeries. More than one-half of my time is dedicated to surgery patients and, in fact, approximately 75% of the surgery patients that I visit are at the current QMG Surgery Center.

Consequently, this is just the first point in the basis of my opposition to CON 18-042. The proposed surgery center would be located more than 20 blocks from Blessing Hospital and, as a result, would make it nearly impossible to travel to and from in a timely manner for spiritual care of patients in both locations. There is currently a 5-minute walk between the hospital and the current surgery center. Does QMG specifically plan to form a chaplaincy program to care for the spiritual needs of these patients at the proposed new location?

Secondly, the QMG proposal appears to be a definite duplication of services. Blessing and QMG have already offered an outpatient surgery center on the QMG campus for over 10 years. Has this not been a successful arrangement? As for the thought of duplication, I would like to share an observation of having been a patient a few times at a MO hospital where an adjacent clinic also has an outpatient surgery center. Common sense tells me that the outpatient surgery services at that hospital are extremely underutilized. Which leads me to believe that there is, without a doubt, a duplication of services. Would the circumstances in Quincy, IL be any different? What about a loss of jobs?

Additionally, I see first-hand the financial support that Blessing provides to the education of healthcare professionals, including the College of Nursing & Health Sciences, the SIU Family Medicine Residency Program, and the specialty training provided to new family physicians; and, above all, charity care to those in need of healthcare. Won't the loss of outpatient surgery revenue threaten these community benefit programs?

As a student of business and economics, I usually welcome competition and honor capitalism. However, in this case, we have a non-profit healthcare provider vs. a for profit provider. This, along with the reasons stated above, leads me to believe that what is in the communities' best interest is for Blessing

and QMG to continue their cooperation in the delivery of key services. I seriously doubt that working against one another will improve the health of our communities. As a result, I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell E. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and 'T'.

Darrell E. Thompson

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HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

January 29, 2019

Ms Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator

Ih Health Facilities & Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, Ih 62761

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

Dear Ms Avery:

My name is Phyllis Hofmeister, I have served on the Blessing Hospital Foundation Board for 11 years. The Foundation is very grateful to the community for its wonderful support.

The community realizes the value of Blessing Hospital and the amount of free services that are provided to needy citizens.

Blessing Hospital does own the Surgery Center but Quincy Medical Group runs the operation. It currently does not run at full capacity, so it is hard to understand why we need two of the same type facilities in the same town. I do not believe two could survive.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities

and Services Review Board deny CON  
application from Quincy Medical Group,  
for a new surgery center. Thank you  
for your consideration.

Respectfully

Phyllis Hofmeister

Phyllis Hofmeister

Venu Reddy, M.D.  
Blessing Health Center  
927 Broadway, Suite 201  
Quincy, IL 62301

January 28, 2019

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FEB 04 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am Venu Reddy, M.D., a practicing pulmonary medicine specialist in Quincy, Illinois. I am an employee of Blessing Hospital (BH).

I am writing this letter in opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group (QMG) Surgery Center. In this letter, I want to bring several facts/ reasons to your attention regarding this matter.

1. As a specialist physician, when I tell my patients to go to St. Louis or Springfield, Illinois for health care services that are not available in Quincy, they tell me that they DO NOT want to go that far for their healthcare needs; instead they ask me why those services are not available locally. This indeed is the TRUTH, people don't want to travel far away for their health care. QMG claims that patients are asking to be sent out of the area, and that their physicians have no choice but to send their patients out of the area for locally available services (due to long back log) are factually INCORRECT. Instead of duplicating existing services with its unintended consequences, I therefore strongly feel BH and QMG should work together to provide new services to our area community that are not currently available. More over the current surgical center both BH and QMG are utilizing is not running at full capacity, rather operating at 50% capacity; based on how Blessing operates the center.
2. At the present time area patients are not waiting long periods of time to have procedures done here. Pulmonary division at BH has no scheduling problems, whenever it wants to schedule patients in OR. QMG's claim in support for another Surgery Center, that patients are waiting too long is factually INCORRECT.



3. Traditionally it has been taught in Business Schools that COMPETITION is good for the consumer. Indeed it is true in every business except healthcare. I say this without any reservation because, as you are painfully aware, healthcare costs across the country in the last two decades have skyrocketed, in SPITE OF COMPETITION and not because of lack of it. And that is a fact, we can all agree on. Duplicating existing services brings on added costs and more pressure on providers to increase volume to "keep head above water" to survive and eventual job losses and failure of businesses. That will hurt the local community.
4. The Surgery Center that is currently operational was owned by QMG. Due to challenging situation and the critical need for capital, it was sold to BH in 2006.
5. QMG's claim, that they have not been able to provide evening and weekend services is FALSE, because as you already know from testimony by area anesthesia department, that those services were never requested by QMG.
6. In addition to surgical services, BH provides other services like psychiatry care, inpatient care, and care of the uninsured / underinsured. QMG DOES NOT. Taking away descent revenue generating services from the BH will lead to financial hardship to the hospital, to provide other services that are less profitable and/ or revenue neutral.

These are just a few reasons that should make you believe, some of the data given by QMG in support of CON 18-042 is FACTUALLY MISLEADING. After you have reviewed all the data in support and in opposition; and based on FACTS and FACTS ONLY; it is my hope that you give a strong consideration to DENY their CON application 18-042 (QMG Surgery Center). I thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,



Venu Reddy, M.D.

P.S. If you have already received this letter, please disregard this 2nd copy.

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
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January 25, 2019

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

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Rebecca Crouch, I am employed at Blessing Health System in the position of LPN, Resource Nurse. I am writing to express my disapproval of the QMG CON. I have been in nursing for 42 years and have been in my current position for 3 ½ years with Blessing Health System.

Even if I were not an employee of Blessing Health System, there is no way my conscience would let me approve of Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center's application. There are too many risk factors for patients should a medical emergency arise. Although patients are screened pre-operatively, there is always a chance that something can go wrong. Having had an outpatient surgery in June of 2018, had I been a patient at the QMG Surgery Center, I would have had an ambulance expense for a ride to Blessing ED. I did not start breathing when extubated after my procedure and ended up staying overnight at the hospital for breathing treatments and observation so I know not every surgery goes smoothly. For a patient that develops a medical emergency, the distance from the proposed surgery center to Blessing Hospital ED is further away and possibly may be a difference between life and death. In addition, with mileage added on the cost of ambulance billing that would be an added expense to the patient. The current surgery center at 1121 Hampshire is conveniently located to Blessing ED and although an ambulance expense may be incurred, the patient would have better odds of a much better outcome by being closer.

Another reason to deny the application for the proposed Quincy Medical Group Surgery application is the duplication of services. Quincy does not need a second surgery center, a second cardiac cath lab – one that is not connected to the hospital should major complications develop. This would end up in a medical disaster for patients who are uninsured or underinsured.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny the application for the Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

*Rebecca A. Crouch LPN, Resource Nurse*

Rebecca A. Crouch LPN, Resource Nurse  
Blessing Physician Services  
927 Broadway, Suite 120  
Quincy, IL 62301

January 24, 2019

**RECEIVED**

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
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Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
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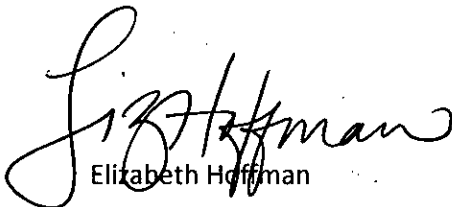
Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Elizabeth Hoffman and I am the Administrative Assistant for Crossriver Quality Health Partners, the Clinically Integrated Network for Blessing Health System, Hannibal Clinic, and SIU Family Medicine. I have been a member of the Blessing Health System for nine years. I am in opposition to CON 18-042.

The duplication of services, loss of jobs within the Health System, and the lack of need in our community are just a few of the reasons this project should be denied. Add in the fact that UnityPoint would be a 40% owner of the center and funds will be funneled toward an out of state, for profit, entity and away from the local community and a number of exponentially valuable Safety Net services our citizens rely on. From a clinical standpoint, it seems more logical to have heart catheterizations completed in a hospital setting where the patient can be better monitored and staff is more equipped to handle an emergency. That being said, EMS Services would have to train their staff to handle critical heart patients (i.e., balloon pumps, etc.) that they are not currently trained to do, as there is no need in our community. This will ultimately cost our tax payers money.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board **deny** CON application 18-042 proposed by and for, the Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

  
Elizabeth Hoffman

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FEB 04 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

January 28, 2019

Ms Courtney R Avery

Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor

Springfield, IL 62761

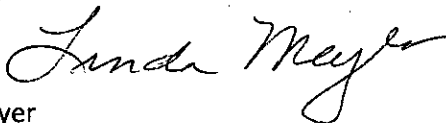
RE: Opposition to CON 18-042, QMG Surgery Center in Quincy, IL

Dear Ms. Avery

I am Linda Meyer, RDCS, an employee of Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL. I am opposed to the above referenced CON project.

There are several reasons this is not a necessary surgery center. There is already a well staffed and managed center in Quincy. It operates at a 50% occupancy level. How would it be cost effective to duplicate this with a multi-million center that is not needed. This would eventually drive up costs for everyone. That is what's wrong with healthcare (and government) in general. Everyone is more interested in doing what they may think is politically correct than holding down costs. All this eventually falls back on you and I, the taxpayers and wage earners. Quincy has shown no growth in the last several years. It, and the whole area have instead lost population. Statistics show that. Who would this very costly project benefit? Just the for profit health care providers who want to make money. Its's time to put the patients first!

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny . CON application 18-042. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, 

Linda K Meyer