

Ms. Courtney R Avery

Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities Review Board

525 West Jefferson and Floor

Springfield IL 62701

Re: Opposition to

CON 18-642

Quincy Medical Group
Surgery Center in Quincy, IL

Ms Avery,

I am writing to you to let you know

I oppose con 18-642 in my community.

We currently have a surgery center which

is operated by the same people requesting
the con. It is under utilized by half

The additional center would over saturate

the area and reduce our ability to keep
qualified surgeons due to lack of cases.

Additionally the owners of this requested venture

are 40% outside of our community and state
this is a harmful action for our community

of Quincy, IL

Sincerely

Gregg Hoffman

1220 Highland
Quincy, IL 62302

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FEB 07 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES REVIEW BOARD
SENIOR REVIEW BOARD

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

January 16, 2019

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

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am the HR Asst./Credentialing Coordinator for the Hannibal Clinic, which is owned by Blessing Health System. I oppose to the duplication of services of Quincy Medical Group building a new surgery Center. The impact this would cause to the community is unnecessary and would cause a loss of jobs and space due to the excess of services, without the need or volume of care.

The current surgery Center has adequate space and providers to add services, without a duplication of services. Quincy Medical Group should continue to move forward with Blessing to better serve the community.

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

Sincerely,

Marsha Moss

Marsha Moss

January 16, 2019
Ms Courtney R. Avery
Administrator

Illinois Health and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RECEIVED

FEB 07 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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

Dear Ms Avery,

I, Jenny LaForce, am currently a leader at the Hannibal Clinic in Hannibal, Missouri. Blessing Health Care System owns the Hannibal Clinic. Quincy, Illinois is apart of my own community. Due to my working relationship with Blessing Health Care System it affects me directly. I believe that there is absolutely no need to duplicate services in our area.

Our area does not have the need for another surgery center. There are not enough cases in the area for 2 locations. This will only add more cost to our community, which will affect not only this community but surrounding areas also. This will take money from the Blessing Health Care System which will affect all their employees & patients.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities & Services Review Board deny CON 18-042.
Respectfully Submitted
Jenny LaForce
Jenny LaForce BSN/RN/Nursing Supervisor

1-16-19
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

RECEIVED

FEB 07 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Ms. Courtney R. Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62762

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Mary Jones and I am the laboratory manager
at Illini Community Hospital. My mother needed the OHS
emergency cardiology services. We were able to have
her air-lifted to Blessing and she received excellent
care, follow-up, and education. Her heart cath and
physical therapy were flawless.

I am a daughter and veteran. I want to bring my mom
85 miles to services and care I trust. I don't see
duplication of services as cost efficiency. I also don't
see the same doctors opening another space as cost
efficiency and best use of dollars and resources of
people.

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

Respectfully,
Mary Ann Jones
Mary Ann Jones

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FEB 07 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

1-16-19

Ms. Courtney R. Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities & 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 am Diana Moore and am a resident of Quincy, IL,
as well as a long-term healthcare worker. I work
for Aramark @ Blessing Hospital as the Environmental
Services Director.

I know we have two Cardiac Cath Labs at our facility
& cannot keep them busy as the volume is just not
there. Adding a third Cath Lab at this QMG Surgery
Center is not only unnecessary, it is not cost effective
for our community. This will only add cost to our
community.

I respectfully ask that the Illinois Health Facilities &
Services Review Board deny the CON application for the
QMG Surgery Center.

Thank you for your consideration.

Diana H. Moore

January 18, 2019

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FEB 07 2019

MENTAL HEALTH
SERVICE DELIVERY BOARD

Mrs. Courtney R Avery, Administrator
IL Health Facilities & Service Review Board
525 West Jackson, 3rd Floor
Springfield IL 62761

Dear Ms. Avery:

RE: Opposition to CON 18-042 Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy IL

As a Director for Denman Services and an employee of Blessing Health System, I oppose CON 18-042.

The proposed CON is a duplication of services. Opening an additional surgery center will come at a cost far greater than possible new business generated. The current surgery center owned by Blessing and managed/operated by Quincy Medical Group is not near capacity. An additional surgery center will take business from the existing center.

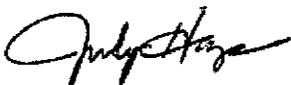
Loss of revenue puts Blessing Health Systems' ability to provide services to the under insured (and none insured) community members at risk. For example, many services, such as behavioral health, are not reimbursed at a level covering costs. Other facilities offering mental health services in our region have closed. Duplicating services by building another surgery center puts our community is at risk of losing the services Blessing provides as part of its mission.

Blessing currently provides a \$62 Million community benefit, which includes \$6 Million in charity care. Blessing is important to the Quincy region, as 100% of the profits are reinvested to benefit our community. The long-term impact of duplicating surgery center services puts this community benefit at risk.

I have personally witnessed Blessing assisting our Denman customers by paying for medical equipment or supplies needed when there is no other payer source. This proactive approach helps save healthcare dollars in the long run. Without profits to re-invest in equipment/technology and back into our community, countless individuals could go unserved.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Review Board deny CON application 18-042 requested by Quincy Medical Group, as it will be detrimental to our Quincy community by duplicating existing services. The current surgery center's capacity is so low, duplicating those services will have a long-term negative impact on our community.

Sincerely,



Judy Hays
5402 Homan Falls Drive
Quincy IL 62305

1-16-19

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FEB 07 2019

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

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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

Dear Ms. Avery

My name is Kimberly Mann, I am the Radiology Supervisor at Hannibal Clinic which is part of the Blessing Health System. I would like to take some time to express my opposition to the above CON 18-042.

Blessing is currently operating a Surgery Center at Quincy Medical Group. Over the last year Blessing has been able to decrease cost to the Community. This current Center is not being fully utilized currently, so there is no true "need". Opening an additional surgery center will only spread that patient volume out. This will increase cost for the patient in the end. Blessing is a Non-profit organization, and a loss of revenue for them eventually results in a loss of our safety-net services funding for un-insured or under-insured patients.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities + Services Review Board deny CON 18-042. QMG Surgery Center in Quincy IL. Thank you for your consideration

Respectfully, Kimberly Mann RTLRIMICR

1-17-19

Ms. Courtney R. Avery
Admin. Straddle
Illinois Health Facilities + Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RECEIVED

FEB 07 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES + SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Melissa Damon. I am the manager of the Illini Rural Health Clinic + Illini Xpress Clinic in Pittsfield, Illinois. Illini Community Hospital is an affiliate of Blessing Health System. I strongly oppose CAN 18-042 (Quency Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois). This is an unnecessary duplication of service

This duplication of service will create even more of a division in the medical staff + more confusion to patients within the community. The potential for both medical entities to fail grows, creating an even more scary situation for the community + potential for job loss + decrease access to medical care. We already live in a rural community + this could be disastrous! I am also concerned about the cost of care to our family + friends (our community). If this is approved, it will create more cost to the community as there is no new service (no increase in volume to support).

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities + Services Review Board deny CAN application 18-042 - Quency Medical Group Surgery Center - Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully
Melissa Damon RN

01-16-19

RECEIVED

FEB 07 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Ms. Courtney R. Avery
Administrator
IL 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
Quincy IL

Dear Ms. Avery,

My name is JoAnn Lubbert. I am an RN nursing supervisor at the Hannibal Clinic, which is part of the Blessing Health System. I am opposed to the duplication of the QMG Surgery Center. It has the potential to be a huge loss of service for our community. Blessing is able to provide many services that do not have adequate funding, for example - Psychiatry Services. This service rarely is paid for but SO VERY NEEDED in our community.

I am worried about the effects our community will suffer from the decreased volume to existing surgery center.

I respectfully ask the Health Facility and Services Review Board to DENY the CON application 18-042 for the Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center.

Sincerely,

JoAnn M. Lubbert, RN
JoAnn M. Lubbert, RN

January 16, 2019

RECEIVED

FEB 07 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,

My name is Ashley Cawthon. I am the Patient Care Supervisor in Surgery at Illini Community Hospital, an entity of The Blessing Health System. I strongly oppose the CON approval for the Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois.

I believe this will have a negative impact on our community; the community that we serve as well as the community of employees. This duplicate service would not benefit our community. This will add more cost to the community, and will not add any new revenue.

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

Respectfully,

Ashley D. Cawthon

Ashley Cawthon

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FEB 07 2019

JANUARY 16th 2019

Ms. Courtney R. Avery
Administrator

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Board
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

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

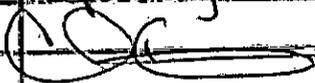
Dear Ms. Avery,

My name is Chris Coleman. I not only live, but also work within Quincy, IL area. The CON 18-042 filed by Quincy Medical Group I strongly oppose the passing of this application for the good of our community and state.

The impact of this will be catastrophic to those individuals that rely on our not-for-profit health care system will be at risk due to the loss of revenue. Further, the CON states the Quincy Medical Group will not be in this venture alone, but with Unity Point which is located out of state in IOWA where part of the revenue generated will inevitably be dispersed. Quincy, IL is a small community that does not have the population to support another Surgical Center. The community at this time does not fully utilize the Surgical Services that are currently available. I believe we are blessed to live in a state that requires a CON to ensure that there is truly a need.

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

Respectfully,



Chris Coleman

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FEB 07 2019

January 16, 2019

Ms. Courtney R. Avey, Administrator

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board

525 West Jefferson 2nd Floor

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

Dear Ms. Avey,

My name is Jenna Cralitu, MBA, Dean of Enrollment Management / Business Manager at Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

During this time in our nation there is a significant shortage of nurses. To offset this shortage, we at Blessing-Rieman, strive to produce a high number of professional and competent nurses. We have developed community partnerships with area colleges including John Wood Community College to offer affordable, high quality educational opportunities.

The financial impact from the QMG initiative would cause a decrease in Blessing revenue which in turn, decreases the amount of financial support for the College. This project would inhibit the ability to educate students, furthering the nursing shortage.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board, deny CON application 18-042.
Thank You for Your Consideration.

Respectfully,

Jenna A. Cralitu

Jenna A. Cralitu

Jan. 16th, 2019

RECEIVED

MS. Courtney R Avery
Administrator

FEB 07 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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 am Michele Nelson with Hannibal Clinic which is now owned by Blessing Health Systems. I am not in support of CON 18-042 project.

As a leader with the Blessing Health System I understand duplication of services is not helping the community. Duplication of services increase cost to the community. Blessing Health System prides itself on helping and supporting the community. Allowing this CON 18-042 project will negatively affect the community.

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

Sincerely,

Michele Nelson
Human Resources

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January 16, 2019

FEB 07 2019

Mrs. Courtney R. Arroy

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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, IL

Dear Ms. Arroy,

I am the Director of Finance at Hannibal Clinic, a for-profit multi-specialty group in Hannibal, MO, which is just across the river from Quincy, IL and I am very much opposed to QMG's CON #18-042.

Working in finance in the health care industry I very much understand this surgery center will do nothing but add more cost to the Quincy and surrounding markets. Someone will have to pay for this cost since there is limited demand and already a surgery center in Quincy, which is owned by the not-for-profit Blessing Health System. This duplication of services will also take revenue away from Blessing Health system, who uses that revenue to support other necessary but unprofitable service lines like mental health, as well as charity care that is desperately needed. Taking money from a non-profit and putting it into the hands of a for-profit, who is ^{partially} owned by a larger system not even in this state, would be a huge detriment to these communities.

I respectfully request that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042 put forth by Quincy Medical Group for a surgery center in Quincy, Illinois. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christina Brewer

RECEIVED

FEB 07 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

January 30, 2019

Mrs. Laurie A Laaker
Office Coordinator, Blessing Cancer Center
Blessing Health System
1005 Broadway
Quincy, IL 62301

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am the Office Coordinator of the Infusion Center in the Blessing Cancer Center. I have been with the Blessing Health System for 32 years in various roles. I was born and raised here in Quincy and will be a life long resident of this community.

I am opposed to the Quincy Medical Group Certificate of Need for an outpatient surgery center. My family and I have received services at the Blessing Surgery Center, located at the Quincy Medical Group campus. We received quality care in a timely fashion with good outcomes. I do not believe there needs to be a duplication of these services in Quincy. I am concerned about the loss of jobs due to this project, in an already struggling community. I work with our cancer patients that rely on the safety net and community benefit programs and services. Without the benefit of these services, many of our patients' needs will not be met. It is my hope that Blessing and Quincy Medical Group can continue to work together to bring service expansion, cost reduction, and quality care to our community in a collaborative effort. Duplication of services, loss of jobs, and loss of revenue that provides free & specialized community services is not the answer. It creates an even bigger problem for the residents of Quincy.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny the CON application for the Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois. Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,



Laurie A Laaker

RECEIVED

FEB 07 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

1/30/2019

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

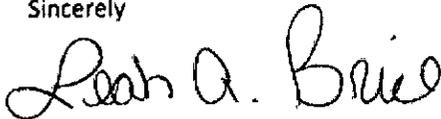
Dear Ms. Avery:

I am Leah Brice and I am a Blessing Hospital Pharmacy Technician. I have worked at Blessing Hospital for 15 years. I oppose the CON 18-042, QMG surgery center in Quincy, IL.

Adding another surgery center is duplication of resources because Blessing Hospital already works with QMG at the current surgery center at 11th and Hampshire Street in Quincy, IL. Blessing and QMG have worked together over 10 years to provide excellent service at the current surgery center. The current surgery center is not operating at full capacity so adding another surgery center does not make sense. The money generated from the current surgery center helps the community significantly. Taking the revenue generated from a non-for-profit organization and giving it to a for-profit organization will result in less community support, which will harm the community. The money will leave the community and will especially harm behavioral health care and trauma care. Hundreds of jobs will be lost at Blessing Hospital by adding another surgery center. This will lead to additional unnecessary healthcare expenses.

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

Sincerely



Leah A. Brice CPhT

RECEIVED

FEB 07 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

1/25/2019

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

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Sue Fansler, I am a LPN at Blessing Health System, and I have been employed at Blessing Health System for forty two years.

I oppose this request regarding QMG request for a Surgery Center in Quincy, IL. This request in my eyes is not needed in Quincy, IL. It is a **duplication of services** for Quincy, IL. I feel this will **increase cost on health care**. It will **decrease jobs at Blessing Hospital**, it will cause a ripple effect on the different job roles at Blessing Hospital. **Blessing gives back to the community with dollars**, this will be effected in a negative impact, if the proposal goes through for QMG.

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

Respectfully,


Sue Fansler

RECEIVED

FEB 07 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES AND
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

January 25, 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, Illinois.

Dear Ms. Avery:

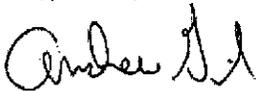
My name is Andrew Griesbaum, and I am a Recruiter with Blessing Health System. This project concerns me from a couple different angles, and I am opposing the above referenced project.

The first reason I object to the CON submitted by QMG is because I don't feel our community can support two separate surgery centers. Not only do I hear that the current surgery center is not operating at capacity, but the Quincy area is having difficulty finding skilled workers to staff the current medical facilities in town. We are finding it increasingly difficult to attract the talent needed, and based off data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics this is not going to change for quite some time. If anything force Blessing Health System, and Quincy Medical Group to find common ground on a cooperation that would benefit the community.

The second reason I object to the CON submitted by QMG is because of the amount of financial support that Blessing provides to the community and surrounding areas. The way I understand is that if the CON gets approved this will negatively affect the financial support that Blessing is able to provide. A family member of mine was fortunate enough to directly experience this support when her spouse passed away. She and her family incurred a significant amount of medical expenses while her husband was in the hospital fighting cancer, and they were under insured. I encouraged her to apply for Blessing's financial assistance program. She was approved, and all medical expenses were taken care of. This was a huge burden lifted following the loss of her spouse. This is just one occurrence. Blessing does this for many more uninsured, and underinsured households in the community. Anything that would take away from this I will oppose.

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

Respectfully,



Andrew Griesbaum

RECEIVED

FEB 07 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

1/25/19

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:

My name is Crystal Neff and I am a Clinical Instructor for Blessing School of Radiologic Technology in Quincy, Illinois. I am contacting you to let you know I strongly oppose the proposal of a new surgery center serving our area. We already have a surgery center serving the community owned by Blessing Hospital and managed by Quincy Medical Group. Normally, I believe that competition is good because it keeps market pricing low. Unfortunately, in this case I don't think that is what this new center would do for our community. I believe it would send money that is currently being used towards the community by Blessing out of the area. Blessing is a non-profit organization that keeps funds locally. This new center would be 40% owned by a for-profit company in another state.

Another concern I have is that I don't believe the two entities have tried hard enough to work together on the existing surgical venture. If we need a new surgery center as a community then how come the existing surgery center is not operating at maximum capacity? If cost is causing people to go elsewhere then the two groups (QMG and Blessing) should first be asked to see what can be done to lower costs and keep people locally.

I respectfully ask that before a new surgery center is approved in our community, the two groups would be sent back to the table to try to work out a deal in their existing venture that would better serve the community for years to come. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Crystal Neff R.T. (R)(CT), BA

Crystal Neff R.T. (R) (CT), BA
Clinical Instructor
Blessing School of Radiologic Technology
Blessing Hospital
217-223-8400 Ext. 6160
Crystal.Neff@blessinghealthsystem.org

RECEIVED

FEB 07 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, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Steve Felde. I am a lifelong Illinois resident, a 36-year resident of Quincy and a 28-year member of the Blessing Hospital staff. The purpose of this letter is to state my opposition to the above-referenced CON project.

I believe in competition. However, I know that competition does not, in all cases, deliver the desired results of lower costs and higher quality for the consumer. In the case of the establishment of a for-profit outpatient surgery center in Quincy, that would compete with the existing non-profit center, it would drain resources from Blessing Hospital that are needed to deliver Safety Net services that our community desperately needs. These services include inpatient care and trauma care. Only Blessing Hospital provides those services in a 100-mile radius.

In addition, establishment of a second surgery center would be an unnecessary duplication of services, as Blessing Hospital and Quincy Medical Group have partnered for more than a decade in the operation of a successful, non-profit outpatient surgery center in Quincy.

I very much would like to see, with the urging of the members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Planning Board, Quincy Medical Group and Blessing continue to work together to refine the operation of the current center to enhance service the community. Quincy and the region Blessing and Quincy Medical Group serve is too small to successfully sustain two outpatient surgery centers. Something would have to give and I fear it would be the Safety Net.

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

Respectfully,



Steve Felde

RECEIVED

FEB 07 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES AND
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

January 25, 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 Quincy, IL

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am a lifelong resident of Quincy and a long-term employee of Blessing Health System. I am strongly opposed to the CON for QMG Surgery Center. The current Surgery Center meets our community's needs very well. My family has used this facility many times in recent years and have consistently received prompt, excellent care. There has never been a delay in scheduling a procedure or unavailable appointment times. Blessing Health System is vital to the future of this community. Please do not allow anything that could potentially weaken that position.

As a mother and grandmother, I have complete confidence in the care provided by Blessing Hospital and have trusted my families care to them many times. I want this organization to remain strong in this community for many generations to come.

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

Sincerely,



Mrs. Pamela Shepherd

1300 Columbine

Quincy, IL 62305

RECEIVED

FEB 07 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

January 20, 2019

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

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Rosalba McCoy and I am a Registered Nurse at Blessing Hospital. My family and I have been recipients of the great care that Blessing Hospital provides and are so thankful for everything that they do for our community. Recently, my mother-in-law was hospitalized and we had the opportunity to once again take notice of the great care that Blessing Hospital provides. Blessing Hospital not only made sure that my mother-in-law was well taken care of but the staff also made sure that my family was well informed which put us at ease during those tough few days.

As a concerned community member, I fail to see the benefit of an additional surgery center. The duplication of service is not of benefit to our community and therefore, I urge the board to strongly consider the impact of this certificate of need (CON). Please consider how it would be a positive to our community, and review if there truly is a need for service duplication that could potentially negatively impact Blessing Hospital's revenue which is utilized for Safety Net services such as charity care to those in need in our community. In QMG's CON, they also mentioned a partnership with Unity Point of Iowa, with Illinois' current financial state, I struggle with the concept of having our community dollars go to Iowa's economy instead of our local economy. Furthermore, I personally would not feel comfortable with my loved one having a procedure at a surgery center at a mall over a location close to or within the hospital walls in case of an emergency.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny the Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center certificate of need. Thank you for your consideration and I hope that our community's best interest is at the center of the board's decision.

Respectfully,


Rosalba McCoy

RECEIVED

01-24-2019

FEB 07 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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 am writing in opposition to CON 18-042. I am a current employee at Blessing Health System, and I urge the board to recognize that the duplication of services provided at the proposed QMG surgery center is not needed in our community. This would have a negative impact because reducing Blessing's revenue in turn reduces the much needed assistance Blessing provides to our community.

QMG denies that 40% of the revenue of the proposed QMG surgery center will go to UnityPoint in Iowa, and yet the CON states that UnityPoint owns 40% of QMG. The CON does not specify how revenue would be distributed among the owners of the organization, and I expect that UnityPoint is entitled to take their portion of the profits. We need to support our community by keeping the revenue here at Blessing, where it can benefit our community. Blessing is very generous and truly cares about our community – during the last fiscal year Blessing invested nearly \$63 million in community benefit needs. Taking revenue away from Blessing means taking much needed benefits away from the members of the community.

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Megan Bridgeman

RECEIVED

FEB 07 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

1/29/2019

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

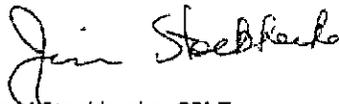
Dear Ms. Avery:

I am Joni Stockhecke and I am a Blessing Hospital Certified Pharmacy Technician. I have worked at Blessing Hospital for over 15 years. I oppose the CON 18-042, QMG surgery center in Quincy, IL.

Adding another surgery center is duplication of resources because Blessing Hospital already works with QMG at the current surgery center at 11th and Hampshire Street in Quincy, IL. Blessing and QMG have worked together over 10 years to provide excellent service at the current surgery center. The current surgery center is not operating at full capacity so adding another surgery center does not make sense. The money generated from the current surgery center helps the community significantly. Taking the revenue generated from a non-for-profit organization and giving it to a for-profit organization will result in less community support, which will harm the community. The money will leave the community and will especially harm behavioral health care and trauma care. Hundreds of jobs will be lost at Blessing Hospital by adding another surgery center. This will lead to additional unnecessary healthcare expenses.

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

Sincerely



Joni Stockhecke, CPhT

RECEIVED

FEB 07 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

January 25, 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:

My name is Nila Catron and I work for Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL. As an employee of Blessing Hospital, I wanted to relay my opposition to CON 18-042.

Below are my reasons for opposing CON 18-042:

1. I feel that this would be a duplication of services to the people of the greater Quincy community. Blessing Health System acquired the current surgery center from QMG more than 10 years ago. In my experience in working with the hospital's surgery system, I have seen cooperation between Blessing employees and the QMG leadership that manages that surgery center.
2. The current surgery center is not even running at full capacity, so I do not see a need for an additional outpatient surgery center in this area.
3. Much of the revenue that is generated from outpatient surgery at Blessing is used to help support Safety Net services that Blessing Health System provides to the region. If QMG is allowed to open their own surgery center, that would take much the money that provides much needed charity care to our region.
4. As a not for profit organization, Blessing provides financial support for medical education to the following organizations: Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences and the SIU Family Medicine Residency Program. The loss of outpatient surgery revenue would cut funds to those organizations.
5. QMG's partner, Unity Point, owns 40% of QMG, and is based in Iowa. Potentially, part of the income from the proposed surgery center would leave the state of Illinois.
6. Blessing could see a possible loss of up to 400 jobs if QMG is allowed to open the surgery center.
7. Lastly, the overall Quincy community deserves to see QMG and Blessing to continue cooperating in the delivery of medical care. Both have successfully cooperated in the operation of both the existing surgery center on the QMG campus, as well as a cancer center that is on the Blessing campus.

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

Sincerely,



Nila G. Catron

RECEIVED

FEB 07 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

January 31, 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 am John McDowell, Administrative Director of Psychiatric Services at Blessing Hospital, with administrative oversight of three inpatient behavioral health units. I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, and have worked in Quincy, with social services and behavioral health for over 15 years

This CON threatens the continued viability of behavioral health services in Quincy. It hits the most profitable areas of health care services – while leaving non profitable service line, like behavioral health without offsetting financial support. Blessing would need to find \$25 million in cost cuts, and behavioral health will certainly be among the services most at risk.

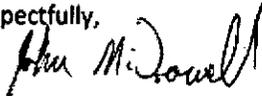
I must oppose this CON application.

Inpatient Behavioral Health services in Quincy have been in existence for over 50 years. These services are provided to patients of the community and surrounding areas. Behavioral Health services are mission driven, and rely on profitable entities of the organization to be sustainable. Blessing Hospital recognizes the lifeline these services represent for the patients we serve. Proof of this commitment is the investment by Blessing in two levels of inpatient care, opened in 2015 as part of the Moorman Pavilion expansion. This addition, at a cost of \$75 million, designated half of the finished space to inpatient Behavioral Health units. Blessing made this investment at a time when many hospitals were closing their behavioral health units.

As I began my career as a community mental health case worker. Many times in that role, I relied on the ER and psychiatric units to provide care to the patients I served. Most of our patients have needs greater than can be met by our community resources and are admitted when severe behavioral health symptoms exist.

In an effort to minimize the duplication of services in our community, and preserve our ability to provide behavioral health services, I respectfully urge the Review Board to deny this CON application.

Respectfully,



John McDowell MSW, LCSW

RECEIVED

FEB 07 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

1/29/2019

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 am Suzi Hancox CPHT and I am a Blessing Hospital Pharmacy Tech. I have worked at Blessing Hospital for over 31 years. I oppose the CON 18-042, QMG surgery center in Quincy, IL.

Adding another surgery center is duplication of resources because Blessing Hospital already works with QMG at the current surgery center at 11th and Hampshire Street in Quincy, IL. Blessing and QMG have worked together over 10 years to provide excellent service at the current surgery center. The current surgery center is not operating at full capacity so adding another surgery center does not make sense. The money generated from the current surgery center helps the community significantly. Taking the revenue generated from a non-for-profit organization and giving it to a for-profit organization will result in less community support, which will harm the community. The money will leave the community and will especially harm behavioral health care and trauma care. Hundreds of jobs will be lost at Blessing Hospital by adding another surgery center. This will lead to additional unnecessary healthcare expenses.

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

Sincerely
Suzi Hancox CPHT

Suzi Hancox CPHT

RECEIVED

FEB 07 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Joe Moya
1405 Oak Street
Quincy, IL 62301
217.209.4316
cassandramoya@gmail.com

January 25, 2019

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

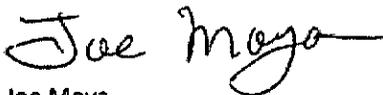
Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Joe Moya and I am a resident of Quincy, Illinois. I strenuously OPPOSE a new surgery center by Quincy Medical Group. The Quincy Medical Group has not shown a compelling need for this surgery center, and the loss of Blessing jobs (the area's largest employer) along with the probable decrease in Blessing's charity health care, would be devastating for our community.

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

Respectfully,



Joe Moya

RECEIVED

FEB 07 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

February 1, 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

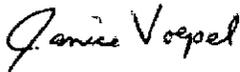
Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Janice Voepel and I work in the Patient Financial Services Department of the Blessing Health System. I would like to begin by stating that QMG is a wonderful clinic, with wonderful Doctors and employees. Both my husband and I see several Physicians at QMG and are very happy with the treatment received. That being said, I would like to state my opposition to the QMG outpatient surgery center proposal.

An additional surgery center in the city of Quincy would create a duplication of services. The current Blessing Surgery Center is not operating at full capacity and to open another surgery center would result in a loss of jobs for the Blessing Health System. I also have grave concerns regarding the partnership with Unity Point due to the potential risk of profits from this new surgery center leaving the Quincy area. In addition, the Blessing Health System provides a wide variety of programs and services to the surrounding community which will not be possible with the loss of revenue generated by the current Blessing surgery center. The city of Quincy and the surrounding community would be best served by a collaboration with QMG of which Blessing is wholly in favor.

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

Respectfully,



Janice Voepel

1/16/19

RECEIVED

FEB 07 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Ms Courtney D. Avery
Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and Services
Review Board

525 W. Jefferson, 2nd floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Opposition of COW 18-042
Quincy Medical Group Surgery
Center in Quincy IL.

Dear Ms. Avery,

My name is Laura Blum-Lempke
I am a leader at Blessing Hospital
in Quincy. I am strongly opposed to
the request from Quincy Medical
Group to construct an additional
Surgery Center in Quincy.
Having such a new facility
intentionally and our community would
negatively impact our facility to provide
financial support and resources to the
members we do today. What Blessing
has done for over 140 years is
ensured we support the health of
our community. What we are talking
about treating mental health patients

Many Patients, Cardiac services,
ambulance coverage, education programs
(nurses), radiology, School of Medicine
just to name a few. The safety net
Blaine provided to the Community in 2018
does not compare to the support
to OMC's Community Support of less than
\$150,000. The other concern is "what if
this business model doesn't work."

This Community could face providers to
have to relocate from the area which
in turn reduces the community's access
to health care.

I respectfully ask that you put the
Board next to this request and put
the people in the Community first
and not supporting such a risk to
this amazing community.

Respectfully,

David Blaine - Leagle, RN, MSN, BS, NE-BC
RN BC

RECEIVED

FEB 07 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES & SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
545 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Opposition to COVID-19, Quincy Medical Group
Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois

Ms. Courtney R. Avery

1/16/19

Dear Ms. Avery:
My name is Beth Pickett and I am a Respiratory Supervisor at Bleeding Hospital in Quincy, IL. I am opposed to the project COVID-19-04a. As a healthcare worker of 11 years, I do not feel that this would be beneficial to our community for a number of reasons.

I have lived in this community my whole life so I have seen Quincy Medical Group go through times of financial struggle with layoffs/letting go of employees. I do not feel that the investment by this company would benefit our community. I also believe that adding this duplicate service of the surgery center would drive up cost of healthcare in our community. More competition in a small area will most likely drive up price. the increase in price would likely be passed on to the customers.

I feel like Blessing Hospital will do anything in its power to work to make sure that our current surgery centers live up to the communities needs. Another negative of Quinley Medical Group building a new surgery center would be that it may create a level of uncertainty for our community members. Customers will be stuck in the middle of choosing where to go for surgical services. Our organization works to provide care and services to our community through ~~our~~ our charity care. I feel like Blessing Hospital works hard for our community and this project would disrupt the community in which I live.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-047. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Beth Pickens

Beth Pickens

1-16-19

Ms. Courtney R. Avery
Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RECEIVED

FEB 07 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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

Dr. Ms. Avery,

My name is Amy Terstrie, I am a Registered Respiratory Therapist and Supervisor at Blessing Hospital. I have been fortunate to have had a 16 year career at Blessing. I oppose the CON that was presented by QMG.

As an employee and leader with Blessing Health System I am deeply concerned about the negative impact that an additional surgery center poses not only to staff, but to our community. With our community population of 40-50,000 how can we expect an additional center to decrease costs when currently not every surgery room, cardiac cath rooms aren't completely utilized. I fear that this request is not being made with the community's best interest in mind. QMG had roughly \$46,000 in charity care for 2018, while Blessing provided 16 million. The amount of charity care and overall services Blessing provide to our community is tremendous. The need for our assistance has been life saving. If duplicated services are offered, not only will it impact the costs to patients, but it takes away staff from Blessing, this has negatively impacted the relationships within the community with trust.

Currently the money that is generated by Blessing is re-invested into our community. It helps us to provide services such as psychiatric services, ~~that~~ that is in high demand, it helps us with educational programs. If QMG is awarded this, 40% of their profits will leave our community, where ours stays in our community. If QMG were awarded and should this venture fail for QMG we risk the loss of many physicians which then would also create a hardship to our community. The loss of services, jobs, with these physicians and their families create a whole new problem for our healthcare system and community.

Blessing and our employees do great things for our patients and

customers we serve in Quincy & the surrounding areas.
I also fear the safety of our patients not being near the
hospital when patients rapidly deteriorate and need interventions.
Please consider this very carefully, for the benefit of
our community and our hospital employees.

Thank you so much,

Onyiah

January 16, 2019

RECEIVED

FEB 07 2019

HEALTH, FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Ms. Courtney R. Avery

Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities & Service 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:

My name is Laura Triplett, MBA, RHIA. I am the Director of Health Information Management at Blessing Hospital. I have lived in Quincy for 40 years. As a long-time community member, I oppose the above-referenced request.

The creation of this proposed center would be a duplication of services that are not currently utilized to near full capacity. Duplicating would cause an increase in cost of health care to our community, as well as be a challenge to hire those already

Critical to fill positions in healthcare. Quincy Medical Group does not currently provide as much charity care, therefore I would be concerned for patients that are high risk or cannot afford the care.

In addition, I struggle with the fact that Blessing Hospital previously bought this service (in 2005) from Quincy Medical Group after they put the service up for sale in the free market. I would also question the safety of providing some of the services they are suggesting.

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

Sincerely,

Laura Triplett, MBA, RHA
Laura Triplett

1/16/2019

RECEIVED

FEB 07 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Ms. COURTNEY R. AVERY

ADMINISTRATOR

ILLINOIS HEALTH FACILITIES & 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:

MY NAME IS LISA ANN EICKELSCHULTE AND I AM THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER AT THE BLESSING HEALTH SYSTEM IN QUINCY, IL; HOWEVER, MORE IMPORTANTLY, I AM A LIFELONG COMMUNITY MEMBER OF THE QUINCY, IL COMMUNITY. AND AS A COMMUNITY MEMBER I AM VERY MUCH OPPOSED TO THE ABOVE-REFERENCED CON PROJECT.

THE ADDITION OF A SECOND SURGERY CENTER TO THIS COMMUNITY WILL GREATLY IMPACT THE CARE WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY. WITH HEALTHCARE BEING SUCH A HIGHLY REGULATED INDUSTRY, ADDITIONAL OUTPATIENT ROOMS / PROCEDURE ROOMS / STAFF WILL ADD SIGNIFICANT COSTS - WITHOUT GENERATING NEW REVENUE IN TOTAL. THESE ADDITIONAL COSTS WITHOUT ADDITIONAL REVENUE WILL MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR BLESSING TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE COMMUNITY BENEFIT, FOR EXAMPLE SAFETY NET SERVICES. ADDITIONALLY WITH UNITYPOINT BEING A 40% OWNER OF THE PROPOSED SURGERY CENTER, MONEY WILL BE LEAVING OUR COMMUNITY, AS UNITYPOINT IS BASED IN IOWA.

I RESPECTFULLY ASK THAT THE HEALTH FACILITIES
AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD DENY CON APPLICATION
18-042. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

RESPECTFULLY,



LEA ANN EICKELSCHULTE

... WITHIN THE ...
... A HEALTH ...
... COSTS ...
... MAKE ...
... TO ...
... WITH ...
... BE ...
... BE ...

1-16-19

Ms. Courtney R. Avery

Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board.

525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor

Springfield, IL 62761

RECEIVED

FEB 07 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Re: Opposing Duplicate Surgery Center 18042
Quincy Medical Group, Surgery Center in
Quincy Illinois.

Respectfully Ms. Courtney R. Avery.

My name is Amanda Anderson I am
a second and third shift Environmental Services
Supervisor. I have only been at Blessing as a
Contract employee for six months. Before this
Job/career I was a welfare single mother of
two. With this blessing has helped me grow
and be able to step up for my daughters.
with that said, going through state aid for
any specialty services Blessing Hospital was and
always took the lead on a financial stand
point.

To stress my opposing opinion on having
a duplic surgery center is simple not only
for our community but our state. Hospitals and
people getting sick will always be here. However,
in the state of Illinois as a previous welfare
mother I know costs and financial issues.
If our hospitals compete with such a huge process
people will go else were because of the cost.
with Illinois state aid they have bought into
three other insurance companys →

These means those insurance companies choose where they cover. If Quincy Illinois starts competing for surgery services. State aid could be lost, which is a huge financial toad on both facilities. That lowers our intelligent level. When cost goes up we shut down as humans and the working class.

My favorite part of Blessing Hospital is our Mission
"The Human Connection"

leave the Human in connection NO duplications a life is only one life individualized.

For all of my own facts I am respectfully asking that the Quincy Medical Group does not open the duplicate surgery center, for the magnitude of this center could cost our community 90,000 times my case alone.

Sincerely,

Amanda
Anderson

January 16, 2019

RECEIVED

FEB 07 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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
of Quincy, IL

Dear Ms. Avery;

My name is Jim Conroy. I am the Director of Hospice, Palliative Care and Clinical Ethics for Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL. This hospital has a 140 year history of delivering essential health care services to the community, providing community benefits and services not available by other providers.

The duplication of services proposed by this CON is not needed and will serve to raise health care costs in Quincy and the surrounding community who rely on health care services available. Currently the surgeon suits and cath lab resources are not utilized to capacity. Increasing available resources will drive up costs. When volume is limited and resources are increased, more costs are incurred. This will serve to reduce the financial resources available to provide safety net services, such as behavioral health services and hospice care that are important to serve the mission of Blessing Hospital - to improve the health of the communities we serve. From an ethical perspective, when resources are used for duplicative services, justice and the fair distribution of available resources is not honored.

In closing I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities
and Service Review Board deny CON application 18042
for the Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center. Thank you
for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Joni A. Embog, PhD, MSHCE, LCSW

RECEIVED

FEB 07 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

January 24, 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:

My name is Chaka Jordan, and I am the Vice President of Marketing and Planning for the Blessing Health System. As Vice President of Marketing and Planning, my job includes analyzing the community's demographic data including the population, socioeconomic, and utilization data for planning purposes. For this reason, I am writing to express my opposition to CON 18-042.

The population of Quincy and surrounding area is expected to remain flat over the next five years, with a slight decline (0.6%) expected. The unique thing about the population of Quincy alone is that it has remained flat for the past several decades, going back to 1940. The fact that there is no anticipated growth of the population of this region, and the demographic is older than the national population is troublesome for QMG's case of anticipated growth for their proposed surgery center. The same physicians will be performing the same procedures as they always have performed, so I am unclear on where they anticipate the growth coming from.

Furthermore, my knowledge of the socioeconomic demographic of the region has me further concerned regarding the risk to eroding Blessing Health System's revenue from the existing surgery center, which is used to reinvest in the communities we serve. While the unemployment rate of Adams County is low at less than 4%, economic challenges still face members of our community. A report published by Illinois Kids Count outlined statistics as it relates to the poverty experienced by children in our community including:

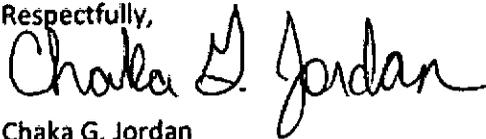
- The child poverty rate in Adams County rose from 12 percent in 1999 to 21 percent in 2015. It rose from 14 percent statewide to 21 percent.
- Nine percent of children in Adams County were in deep poverty -- below 50 percent of the federal poverty level -- in 2012 compared to less than 5 percent in 1999.
- Adjusted for inflation, the median family income in Adams County dropped 4 percent, compared to 11 percent statewide.
- In 2013, 26 percent of households with children in Adams County received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, compared to 21 percent statewide
- In the 2012 tax year, 5,400 households in Adams County, or 18 percent of income tax filers, qualified for the earned income tax credit.
- Medicaid and related program enrollment increased 41 percent between 2005 and 2013.

The safety net and community benefit services that Blessing is able to offer the community is tremendous to the well-being of the residents of our area. A risk in a significant reduction of this, would be detrimental to the community.

Furthermore, I am impressed and appreciative that Blessing offers Psychiatry and Trauma services to a community of this size. Coming from a rural area in North Carolina with a similar sized hospital in my hometown, Behavioral Health and Trauma services were not available from our local hospital. Individuals who needed such services would have to travel to larger metropolitan areas to receive the care which meant oftentimes, the convenience of have family nearby to visit was not a possibility. The residents of our communities are able to stay close to home to receive needed services, which aids in their loved ones recovery.

The proposed QMG surgery center is a duplicative service that is not justified due to no anticipated growth in our region. For this reason, I respectfully ask the the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042, the proposed Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chaka G. Jordan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "C" and "J".

Chaka G. Jordan

RECEIVED

FEB 07 2019

January 24, 2019

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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:

My name is Alison Burkhardt and I am both a patient and employee of Blessing Health System. I am strongly opposed to the Quincy Medical Group CON 18-042. I oppose the CON for the following reasons:

Damage to the Safety Net and Community Benefit programs and services: Much of the revenue Blessing generates from outpatient surgery is used to fulfill its not-for-profit mission of providing Safety Net services to the region. These Safety Net services include behavioral health care and trauma care. The Institute of Medicine defines the health care safety net as those providers who organize and deliver a significant level of health care and other related services to uninsured, Medicaid, and other vulnerable populations. The health care safety net is vital to the health of our communities and Blessing is the only provider in the region who offers these critical services. Insurance reimbursement does not provide adequate support for the delivery of inpatient behavioral medicine and trauma care. Opening a second surgery center would result in a loss to the current surgery center of nearly 12,000 cases and revenue of \$25-\$41 million. A significant portion of that revenue is needed by the community to keep Safety Net services operational

Additionally, as a non-profit healthcare provider, Blessing provides financial support to the education of healthcare professionals (*Blessing-Riegan College of Nursing & Health Sciences and the SIU Family Medicine Residency Program, an award-winning program that provides specialty training to new family physicians*); and charity care to those in need of healthcare, regardless of their ability to pay. While these are not Safety Net services, these are important community benefit investments, programs that cannot sustain themselves financially and rely on Blessing's support. The loss of outpatient surgery revenue threatens these and other community benefit programs.

UnityPoint, Quincy Medical Group's Des Moines, Iowa-based business partner, would be a 40 percent owner of the proposed surgery center. Therefore, a portion of the profits from the proposed center will leave the Quincy area.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042 and encourage existing health facilities to work together. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Burkhardt', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alison Burkhardt

RECEIVED

01/25/2019

FEB 07 2019

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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:

Hello, my name is Stephanie Agnew. I work for Blessing Health System as a Registration/Scheduling Specialist in the Surgery Department. I do all of the scheduling for Blessing Health System, QMG Surgery Center, and GI center both inpatient and outpatient. This CON 18-042 QMG proposal would be a duplication of services that are already provided as a team between QMG/Blessing Health System as we already offer outpatient surgery on the QMG campus. QMG had previously owned the outpatient surgery center and Blessing Health System bought it to assist them with services. Blessing owns the service and QMG manages the center. It has been a successful arrangement for more than a decade now and if they open this new business Blessing Health System would have no role in the proposed project. We do not have a big enough need to have a second outpatient surgery center in place. Also, much of the revenue that Blessing Health System receives from the outpatient surgery is used for not for profit mission providing safety net services to the local region. Opening the second surgery center would result in the loss of the current surgery center, around 12000 cases and up to \$41 million dollars, in which we need to keep the safety net services operational. It would also need to be concerned with the total job loss that would create if it is chosen to open this second outpatient surgery center. Blessing Health System could lose approximately 400 jobs- 12% of the employee body through the loss of its significant portion of the outpatient surgery business. The community deserves cooperation between QMG and Blessing Health System. The key to this is to continue cooperation between QMG/Blessing Health System in the delivery of key services being that's what would be in the best interest of the communities. It has been a very successful cooperation with the current Surgery center and Cancer center. Blessing Health System wants to continue working with QMG, not to be put in a position to work against them in improving the health of our communities.

I am concerned that this will greatly affect my job and many others within the Surgery/Outpatient Surgery facilities if they go through with the Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center. If this project goes through, that will eliminate a great deal of my daily tasks at my job by taking away the need for me to schedule the Outpatient surgeries for the patients, as I do the scheduling for Blessing Health System inpatient and outpatient surgeries, QMG Surgery Center outpatient surgeries and the GI

center patients. I work very closely with the Surgeons/Nurses of QMG and Blessing Health System and I think that we work quite well together and accommodate to their needs the best of our abilities. They are being untruthful in their need of another facility due to hours and accommodations for the surgeons.

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

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie Agnew". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephanie Agnew

RECEIVED

FEB 07 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

January 24, 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 am Jessica Wilson LPN, assistant instructor in the Educational services department for Blessing Hospital. I have worked for the blessing health system for 7 years, in several capacities, under different umbrellas of the organization. I am also a Quincy resident and taxpayer. I am opposed to the above-mentioned surgery center CON for the following reasons. Significant probability of loss of stable, higher paying employment; loss of financial gain for the communities of Quincy and the surrounding areas; and critical loss of community health care for other services.

Just four short years ago, I was admitted to the hospital in severe pain. Spending 2 days in our facility treated for pancreatitis. A bad diabetic, I needed a lot of care at the time, and after care. I racked up thousands of dollars in medical bills, and tests. Blessing hospital stepped in. Even though I had insurance and gainful employment, I could not afford to pay the bills on my own. Blessing Hospital wiped out my bill, and gave me additional help afterwards. They currently offer free diabetic medications through my insurance. I am proud to say I am managing my diabetes, and taking my medication just prescribed. Blessing did that for me. It cemented my commitment to the organization, and my career at Blessing. I am just one person with one story. Blessing has opened up opportunities for me that I could never imagine. I love coming to work and being a part of our society. Blessing does this for thousands of people in different capacities.

Our patients will suffer if we have to reevaluate our ability to offer mental health facilities, and services. Underinsured and uninsured will have a harder time trying to get approval for help with medical bills. Blessing gave an upwards of 60 million dollars back to the community which included wiping out medical bills for patients just like me.

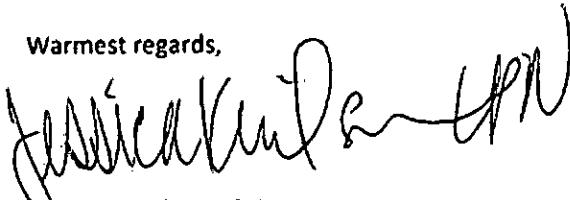
Blessing corporation has projected a loss of 400 jobs, and a loss of at least 25 million dollars in revenue. Blessing is the largest employer in this area; our organization provides employment to family, friends, and neighbors around Quincy. With the projected loss in the Quincy area, we will only cause residents to look elsewhere for employment. Talented members of our community, who pay taxes, volunteer at local organizations, spending the money they earn buying back into our community. Those left will see more store closings, higher taxes, unneeded stress at work due to lack of needed coworkers that the health system cannot afford to hire.

Ms. Avery, I am just one person. I moved to this community to work for Blessing. I wanted to be the person, who loves her community, who gets to raise three beautiful children here, who pays her taxes on

a new home, working and living in Quincy. I could not send you a generic letter. I looked down into my soul to write you this letter. I wanted you to see something from a real patient, a real community member, and a real employee. I want you to know that my employment in this community matters to me. I also care about my coworkers. With our current economy, we need to leave money in Quincy. Not send 40 percent to a billion dollar company in Iowa.

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

Warmest regards,



Handwritten signature of Jessica K. Wilson, LPN in cursive script.

Jessica K. Wilson, LPN