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FEB 14 2019

HEALTH, FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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. 62361

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am a Registered Nurse, Blessing Hospital School graduate, former Blessing employee, and a Volunteer since 2009. I have been patient family member, and a surgical patient as well. My family and our community depends on this facility to care for those of us who can meet our expenses, and for those who cannot. Quincy Medical Group's proposed surgery center would impact this negatively.

Our population and the 50 mile radius cannot support this duplication of services, and drain on the same pool of professional nurses, which is already facing major shortages with the large numbers of retiring Baby Boomer generation.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042. While I respect QMG, their last Surgery Center did not produce as expected, and was sold off. Let's not go there again! Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Richmiller RN BSN*

Barbara Richmiller RN BSN

January 25, 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:

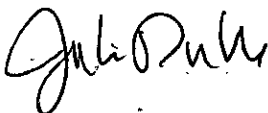
My name is Julie Duke and I work at Blessing Health System as Administrative Director of Revenue Cycle and I respectfully oppose this CON. I have heard a lot about the high costs of healthcare. Blessing Health System's highest priority is caring for patients both physically and financially. Blessing understands that medical costs are often unexpected and works proactively with patients to help them understand their out of pocket costs based on their insurance plan before the time of service.

In 2018, Blessing assisted over 3800 patients apply for financial assistance which allowed these patients to receive care at a significantly reduced amount. Blessing in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services also assisted over 1000 patients apply for Illinois and Missouri Medicaid. In the last year, Medicaid accounted for 17% of Blessing's gross payer mix and represented only 6% of net revenue. Even though Blessing assisted patients apply for Medicaid, it was not for a profit. It was the right option for the patient to further their continuity of care with all participating healthcare providers. I have had the opportunity to hear firsthand from patients how this assistance has improved their quality of life including allowing them better access to medications and to put food on their tables.

I have participated for over the last year on aggressive cost reduction initiatives at Blessing so that Blessing can continue to reduce prices for their patients and Blessing continually looks for way to improve efficiencies. Blessing's mission is to improve the health of the communities. This includes partnering with patients both physically and financially to achieve the best outcome.

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

Sincerely



Julie Duke

February 6, 2019

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Penny Roberts  
1811 S. 24<sup>th</sup>, Unit SS  
Quincy, IL 62301

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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:

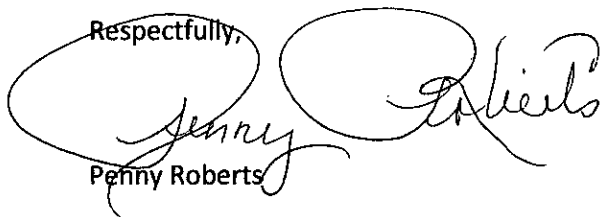
I appreciate you taking the time to read this and truly take into consideration why I feel the way I do. Living in Quincy all of my life, I feel I can give my unbiased opinion, based on the facts, as we know them to date. It is extremely important to understand why many of us are opposed to CON 18-042.

Here are some bullet points as to why I believe, as many others do as well, this would be a colossal mistake and unhealthy for our community.

- It is my understanding that the reason the Surgery Center, at the present time, is located at the Quincy Medical Group facility, but is owned now by Blessing, could not make it and was facing complete failure until Blessing stepped in to keep it in our community at its current location.
- Blessing is one of our largest employers in our community, hence a major contributing entity to our job market, taxing bodies and overall continuity of care in our community.
- Since QMG is now owned by a company out of Iowa, the proceeds from this location, as I understand it, would not stay local, which is a "HUGE" detriment to a move to a much larger facility.
- QMG could not support the small surgery center they now have. Therefore, Blessing bought this facility to keep the service in our community along with the relationship between QMG and Blessing alive.

I am not a political whiz, nor do I profess to be. However, I do know what I feel is the right thing to do and that would be to keep the Surgery Center where it is, and maintain the continuity with a major player such as Blessing. I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center relocation. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Penny Roberts