

March 25, 2019

Members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Re: Project 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center

Dear Members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board:

We are writing on behalf of our respective organizations to address comments made during the March 5, 2019 Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board ("Board") meeting and to express our continued support for Quincy Medical Group's proposal to establish an ambulatory surgery treatment center in Quincy.

Our organizations have a strong presence in Quincy and Adams County. We are dedicated to improving health outcomes and healthcare choices and ensuring that employees and area residents have access to high quality healthcare options at an affordable cost. We are also committed to maintaining and improving the economic vitality of Quincy and Adams County. We have previously expressed written and/or verbal support for the proposed project on behalf of our respective organizations.

We were disappointed on March 5, 2019 that the Quincy Medical Group surgical center project received an Intent to Deny. We note that several Board members commented on the adversarial statements made during the public participation portion of the meeting and that a suggestion was made that Quincy Medical Group seek involvement from a leading community member or organization in the Quincy community to determine ways that Quincy Medical Group and Blessing Hospital can work together.

As leading community members and organizations in Quincy and Adams County, we believe it is imperative that the Board be made aware of our position regarding any potential cooperative venture between Quincy Medical Group and Blessing Hospital in relation to the proposed surgery center. We strongly believe that co-ownership of a surgery center between Quincy Medical Group and Blessing may not be in the best interest of our community as it would not lead to increased patient choice, increased competition, competitive pricing, or reduced costs. The Quincy community wants and needs a second surgery center in Adams County – one that is not owned by or affiliated with the owner of the existing surgery center. Our organizations have consistently expressed a desire for more choice when selecting a healthcare facility, as having more than one choice generates market competition to improve cost and enhance healthcare quality.

While we do not support - and, in fact, discourage - a cooperative venture between Quincy Medical Group and Blessing Hospital in relation to a surgery center, we do support the two providers working together on other collaborative and alignment efforts. The two have successfully worked together on various projects and initiatives over the years, and the two continue to work together on a daily basis in providing quality healthcare to their patients from Quincy and surrounding communities. We understand that Quincy Medical Group recently reissued a previous proposal regarding numerous alignment opportunities to Blessing Health System with a central focus on patient safety, quality, and cost reduction. We are in full support of the parties pursuing these opportunities.

Accordingly, we ask that the Board not impose a requirement or force Quincy Medical Group to "work together" with Blessing Hospital in relation to the proposed surgery center. Rather, we ask that the Board recognize the needs and wants of the Quincy and Adams County community. We need and want choice for our employees, their families, and the community in general regarding ambulatory surgical care. We support our local physician group, Quincy Medical Group, which has been providing cost-effective, quality healthcare to residents in Quincy and Adams County community for more than 80 years.

We strongly urge that this Board approve Quincy Medical Group's project.

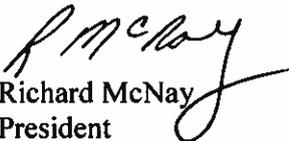
Sincerely,



Beverly Helkey
Executive Director
Tri-State Health Care Purchasing Coalition



Jim Rubottom
Vice President Human Resources
The Knapheide Manufacturing Company



Richard McNay
President
McNay Truck Line



Clayton W. Lamkin
Vice President, Finance North America
Phibro Animal Health Corporation



Gary R. Wright
President
Teachers Coalition on Health