

12/08/2018

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing to strongly support the planned development of the former Bergners building by the Quincy Medical Group into a surgery center in Quincy (Project No. 18-042). This project will greatly enhance the region in many ways ranging from economic to human interests.

As a surgeon with graduate education in healthcare management and finance, the benefits of the proposed project cannot be overstated. Escalating healthcare costs have harmed countless lives due to increasing premiums, high co-pays, loss of coverage, and many other economic limitations that reduce appropriate utilization of care leading to suboptimal care. This delays patient encounters until the condition is more urgent and more complex to treat and increases potential harm to the patient.

Outpatient surgery is more cost effective for all parties involved. Patients can receive the appropriate care in a more efficient way while insurers enjoy reduced costs which mitigates the need for premium increases, particularly for those companies that are self-employed. Length of stay is minimized, utilization of costly care is reduced, and patients enjoy limited exposure to nosocomial illnesses.

This project will provide an efficient venue with physician oversight that is attractive to surgical providers and will improve recruitment efforts moving forward. Physician autonomy has been in decline over recent years and remains one of the greatest dissatisfiers for providers. The planned surgery center allows providers and patients to work together to optimize patient centered care. This will serve as a beacon to many surgeons looking to have more autonomy during patient care episodes.

Quincy Medical Group's utilization of the former Bergners building for healthcare services will prevent the heart of the community from falling into disrepair as has occurred in similar situations around the country. It will improve economic exposure to the surrounding businesses and replace lost tax revenue for the city. It will generate new skilled jobs and promote new business development in the surrounding area.

As a specialty surgeon with administrative training, I cannot emphasize enough how beneficial this arrangement will be for the Quincy area. Patients, providers, and community members will all enjoy the benefits it will offer. I strongly support this project and recommend its approval.

Sincerely,

Brian L Anderson MD, MHA