



HSHS Medical Group

August 26, 2020

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

AUG 27 2020

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Re: Opposition to CON Application #20-017 – Metroeast Endoscopic Surgery Center

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am a general practice physician who specializes in family medicine. I have the privilege of serving as Medical Staff President of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital – Highland (SJH). I write in opposition to CON Project #20-017.

This CON project proposes an unnecessary duplication of services, and is based entirely on procedures currently offered at two existing hospitals – SJH and HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital – Breese. Those redirected surgical cases will adversely impact surgical utilization at both hospitals, which are already below state standards. The adverse financial impact at SJH, a 25-bed Critical Access Hospital, will be substantial. To make up the reduction in \$1.7 million in net hospital revenue, service cuts will be inevitable.

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented financial and other challenges for SJH; CON Project #20-017 would compound these challenges with further cuts in patient volumes and hospital revenues. Especially now, this CON application is bad for health care in our rural area. I respectfully urge denial of CON Project #20-017 by the Review Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Shaefer, M.D.  
Medical Staff President  
HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital – Highland  
12860 Troxler Avenue  
Highland, IL 62249

Cc: Mike Constantino  
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