



CLINTON COUNTY  
District Board

Clinton County Courthouse  
850 Fairfax Street  
Carlyle, Illinois 62231

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AUG 27 2020

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

August 24, 2020

Courtney Avery, Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761  
[courtney.avery@illinois.gov](mailto:courtney.avery@illinois.gov)

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

I write in opposition to CON Project #20-017 in my individual capacity, which is informed by substantial local service as Clinton County Board Chair and City of Breese Police Chief. I care deeply about the health and welfare of our area residents, and sincerely believe this CON project would have substantial negative impacts for our community.

Particularly when rural hospitals have confronted significant pandemic-related challenges and financial losses, how can it be appropriate to shift significant patient volumes and revenue from a Critical Access Hospital through such a clear duplication of services?

The CON application notes that Project #20-017 will shift 200 surgeries per year from HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital – Highland, and another 20 surgeries per year from HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital – Breese. The resulting revenue losses will unavoidably lead to service cuts, and diminish safety net services from a CMS-designated Critical Access Hospital. Rural health care will suffer.

As reflected in the CON application itself, Project #20-017 will also increase patient costs. For example, for CPT Code 29807 (Arthroscopy Shoulder Surgical Repair Slap Lesion), the surgery center proposes to charge \$39,897 – which is more than double that SJH charges for the same procedure at \$17,535. The supposed cost savings that is generally referenced by the surgery center as justification for this CON Project are not been documented, and in fact are contradicted. I respectfully urge denial of this CON application by the Review Board.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert A. Fix".

Robert Fix  
948 Memorial Drive  
Breese, IL 62230

Cc: Mike Constantino, Project Reviewer  
Illinois Health Facilities & Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761  
[mike.constantino@illinois.gov](mailto:mike.constantino@illinois.gov)