Corporate Office
P.O. Box 296
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Sparta, IL 62286

St. Clair County Office
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Belleville, IL 62220

August 31, 2020

RECEIVED
SEP 01 2020
HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities & Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761
courtney.avery@illinois.gov

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

As the Chief Operations Officer of Medstar Ambulance, Inc., I am keenly aware of the need for and importance of 24/7/365 emergency department services by our local community hospitals, including the HSHS St. Joseph Hospitals in Highland and Breese. We do not make runs to ambulatory surgery centers as emergency services are not, and cannot be, provided by surgery centers. In other words, surgery centers simply cannot fill the void created by diminished emergency department services at hospitals in response to revenue loss from duplicated services.

I understand that Project #20-017 proposes to transfer essentially all of St. Joseph Hospital – Highland's orthopedic surgical volume to the surgery center. I am concerned that the loss of these procedures will impair that Critical Access Hospital's ability to cross-subsidize the emergency services it provides, and respectfully request that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board consider this impact and deny Project #20-017.

Respectfully,

Charles R. Kelley

Charles R. Kelley
Chief Operations Officer
PO Box 296
Sparta, IL 62286
(618) 443-2425

Cc: Mike Constantino
Project Reviewer
Illinois Health Facilities & Review Board
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