

August 31, 2020

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

**RECEIVED**

SEP 01 2020

**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Re: Opposition to CON Application #20-17 – Metro East Endoscopic Surgery Center (MESC)

Dear Ms. Avery:

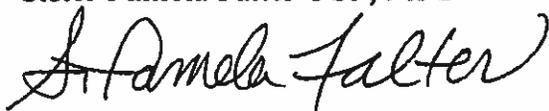
I am a manager at HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Breese, IL. I respectfully ask that the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board (IHFSRB) deny CON Application #20-17. As described therein, Project #20-17 relies entirely on shifting outpatient orthopedic surgeries away from our rural hospital. As a leading healthcare provider and top employer in southcentral Illinois, I firmly believe approval of the MESC CON will further magnify volume problems due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important for you and the IHFSRB to realize that advancement of this project will most likely result in further job loss for healthcare professionals, adding additional difficulty to the community in which I live and work. This seems to be unnecessary duplication of services at the most inopportune time.

I also find it strange that an "endoscopic surgery center" would hope to include orthopedic surgery. It seems to be out of the realm of their original reason for being. I admit I don't know their intent, but I can't help but wonder if this displays an odd, or perhaps greedy, reach beyond who they are. Would the public (their hopeful customers) see it that way as well?

As a community and healthcare leader, I ask that the IHFSRB look at CON Application #20-17 and dismiss the request because the service expansion is not supported by consumer need, and it seems do more harm than good.

Respectfully,

Sister Pamela Falter OSF, MPS



Manager of Spiritual Care at HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital Breese