August 26, 2020

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Ms. 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 20-030 Effingham Medical Office Building

Dear Ms. Courtney Avery:

As chairperson of the HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital Board, I am writing this letter in opposition of the CON Project 20-030. I respectfully urge the Review Board to deny this CON application as originally submitted, and only approve a revised CON application for an appropriately-sized building that does not duplicate existing hospital services.

I oppose this project for the following reasons:

-Concern that the patient volume and revenue for this project is merely redirected away from St. Anthony's Hospital, a sole community hospital, in an area of static or declining population.

-Due to the redundancy of service and redirection of patients, this will cause job losses and service cuts at St. Anthony's hospital and significantly reduce the many ways that the hospital supports the greater Effingham Community.

-The timing of this project is especially bad, when the COVID-19 pandemic has financially strained all hospitals and the services they provide to the community.

-The oversized building and vaguely described procedure rooms clearly suggest that a surgery center is ultimately planned, which will further cripple St. Anthony's hospital.

As stated earlier, I respectfully urge the Review Board to deny this CON application as originally submitted.

Respectfully,

Dorothy Behrns APRN

HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital Board Chairperson