HSHS ILLINOIS
Home Care

August 26, 2020

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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 Project #20-30 – Effingham Medical Office Building

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am the director of post-acute care services for HSHS Illinois and have been part of the St. Anthony's Hospital community here in Effingham, Illinois for many years. I have the honor to facilitate our Home Health and Hospice programs within our greater Effingham area. We are fortunate to be part of this hospital and our programs rely on the viability of our organization to continue delivering care to our most vulnerable populations in their homes. Our programs, supported by the hospital, has 224 colleagues who help reach over a 1000 patients each day across the state of Illinois. Without the hospital, we would not have the resources or ability to stand alone and meet these patients and family's needs. I am additionally a mother, wife, and friend to so many individuals that are impacted by the great work that is accomplished in this community. I am very concerned of the negative impact this community will go through if this CON application is approved in its current form. This approval would result in a significant reduction in services and threatens the continued viability of our Sole Community Hospital.

The mere size of the building, vague descriptions of space, and redundancy of service is in fact an attempt to redirect patients from St. Anthony's which will cause job losses and service cuts at St. Anthony's. Ultimately this will significantly reduce the many ways that the hospital supports the greater Effingham community. COVID-19 has already impacted St. Anthony's financially and caused layoffs. This project would cause hardship for the colleagues, organization, and ultimately the communities that are served. Our community relies on our hospital and we can't weather another storm like this.

Unless modified to avoid duplication of services and right-size the replacement medical office building, I must oppose this project. I respectfully ask that the Review Board deny this CON application in its current form. Please do not allow this unnecessary duplication of services. The greater Effingham area depends on our hospital and our local future depends on your decision

Sincerely,

Shawna O'Dell RN, MSN

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