August 27, 2020

Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
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Springfield, IL 62761
courtney.avery@illinois.gov

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RECEIVED
AUG 28 2020
HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Re: Opposition to CON #20-30 – Effingham Medical Office Building

Dear Ms. Avery:

As the leader of Springfield Clinic, a multi-specialty physician group that employs 22 providers in Effingham, I am writing in opposition to CON #20-30. Our physician group provides primary care, pediatrics, general surgery, endocrinology, dermatology and rheumatology, among other services. It has long been our mission to work with the community's CMS-designated Sole Community Hospital, HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital, with complimentary services, not compete with it.

Collaborating with the local community hospital is a priority to ensure that we can best serve the patient needs in Effingham. Our goal is to avoid duplication of services that could potentially drive prices up for our patients and put a strain on St. Anthony's mission to provide 24/7/365 access to health care.

Springfield Clinic presently competes in Effingham with doctors affiliated with the CON applicant. Today that competition largely occurs on a level playing field, with physicians from both groups utilizing the hospital. Although the applicant's press releases and public statements assert that no new services are proposed by the project, a close reading of the permit application reveals that, in fact, the project does propose new services; namely, CT Scan and Ultrasound, which will ultimately divert patients from St. Anthony's.

We of course have no opposition whatsoever to the applicant modernizing services it already provides in Effingham. It is the addition of new services, currently provided by St. Anthony's, that would disrupt that balance and have long term consequences that ultimately harm the community rather than heal it.

For the long-term benefit of the Effingham community, please deny this application as submitted. Should the applicant modify the application and withdraw its request to add CT Scan and Ultrasound, we would withdraw this opposition. We would ask, however, that permit approval for this project contain a condition that such new services not be subsequently added to the new building.

Sincerely,

Ray Williams
Chief Executive Officer

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