STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center Effingham Medical Office Building, Effingham

Project Number: 20-030

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (*Please Print*) Jerry Esker

City Charleston State IL Zip 61920

Signature

II. REPRESENTATION (*This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of any group, organization or other entity.*)

Entity, Organization, etc. represented in this appearance (i.e., ABC Concerned Citizens for Health Care)

Jerry Esker for Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/2/20

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center Effingham Medical Office Building, Effingham

Project Number: 20-030

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (*Please Print*) Theresa Rutherford

City Effingham State Il Zip 62401

Signature Theresa Rutherford

II. REPRESENTATION (*This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of any group, organization or other entity.*)

Entity, Organization, etc. represented in this appearance (i.e., ABC Concerned Citizens for Health Care)

HSHS St. Anthony's Mem Hospit

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/2/20

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center Effingham Medical Office Building, Effingham

Project Number: 20-030

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Erica Stollard

City Sullivan State IL Zip 61951

Signature Erica Stollard

II. REPRESENTATION (*This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of any group, organization or other entity.*)
Entity, Organization, etc. represented in this appearance (i.e., ABC Concerned Citizens for Health Care) Erica Stollard for Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/2/20

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center Effingham Medical Office Building, Effingham

Project Number: 20-030

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (*Please Print*) Julie Goebel

City Springfield State IL Zip 62712

Signature [illegible]

II. REPRESENTATION (*This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of any group, organization or other entity.*)

Entity, Organization, etc. represented in this appearance (i.e., ABC Concerned Citizens for Health Care) Hospital Sisters Health System

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position)*

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle)*

Oral Written

9/2/20

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center Effingham Medical Office Building, Effingham

Project Number: 20-030

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (*Please Print*) Senator Dale Righter

City Mattoon State IL Zip 61938

Signature [signature]

II. REPRESENTATION (*This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of any group, organization or other entity.*)

Entity, Organization, etc. represented in this appearance (i.e., ABC Concerned Citizens for Health Care)

Senator Dale Righter for Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/2/20

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center Effingham Medical Office Building, Effingham

Project Number: 20-030

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Dr. Ruben Boyajian

City EFFINGHAM State IL Zip 62401

Signature Rub Boyajian

II. REPRESENTATION (*This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of any group, organization or other entity.*)
Entity, Organization, etc. represented in this appearance (i.e., ABC Concerned Citizens for Health Care)
INDEPENDENT PHYSICIAN

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/2/20

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center Effingham Medical Office Building, Effingham

Project Number: 20-030

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (*Please Print*) Dr. Peter Bunuth - comments being presented by Nick Williams, P

City Effingham State IL Zip 62401

Signature

II. REPRESENTATION (*This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of any group, organization or other entity.*)

Entity, Organization, etc. represented in this appearance (i.e., ABC Concerned Citizens for Health Care)

Nick Williams - Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/2/20

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center Effingham Medical Office Building, Effingham

Project Number: 20-030

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Dr. John Schershel

City Springfield State IL Zip 62704

Signature [illegible] for JS

II. REPRESENTATION (*This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of any group, organization or other entity.*)
Entity, Organization, etc. represented in this appearance (i.e., ABC Concerned Citizens for Health Care)

Prairie Cardiovascular

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/2/20

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center Effingham Medical Office Building, Effingham

Project Number: 20-030

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Scott Wilson

City Charleston State IL Zip 61920

Signature [signature]

II. REPRESENTATION (*This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of any group, organization or other entity.*)
Entity, Organization, etc. represented in this appearance (i.e., ABC Concerned Citizens for Health Care)
Scott Wilson for Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/2/20

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center Effingham Medical Office Building, Effingham

Project Number: 20-030

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Dr. Andrew Mahtani

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____

II. REPRESENTATION (*This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of any group, organization or other entity.*)
Entity, Organization, etc. represented in this appearance (i.e., ABC Concerned Citizens for Health Care)

HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial as Vituity

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/2/20

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center Effingham Medical Office Building, Effingham

Project Number: 20-030

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (*Please Print*) Doug Wohltman

City EFFINGHAM State ILLINOIS Zip 62401

Signature [illegible]

II. REPRESENTATION (*This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of any group, organization or other entity.*)

Entity, Organization, etc. represented in this appearance (i.e., ABC Concerned Citizens for Health Care)

Doug Wohltman for Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/2/20

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center Effingham Medical Office Building, Effingham

Project Number: 20-030

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (*Please Print*) Megen Rewers

City Effingham State IL Zip 62401

Signature Megan Rewers

II. REPRESENTATION (*This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of any group, organization or other entity.*)

Entity, Organization, etc. represented in this appearance (i.e., ABC Concerned Citizens for Health Care) Crisis Nursery of Effingham

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position)*

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle)*

Oral Written

9/2/20

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center Effingham Medical Office Building, Effingham

Project Number: 20-030

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (*Please Print*) Tom Grunloh

City Effingham State IL Zip 62401

Signature Tom Grunloh

II. REPRESENTATION (*This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of any group, organization or other entity.*)

Entity, Organization, etc. represented in this appearance (i.e., ABC Concerned Citizens for Health Care)

Tom Grunloh for Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position)*

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle)*

Oral Written

9/2/20

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center Effingham Medical Office Building, Effingham

Project Number: 20-030

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Sister Carol Beckermann

City Neutopolis State IL Zip 62467

Signature Sister Carol Beckermann

II. REPRESENTATION (*This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of any group, organization or other entity.*)
Entity, Organization, etc. represented in this appearance (i.e., ABC Concerned Citizens for Health Care)
Effingham Catholic Charities

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/2/20

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center Effingham Medical Office Building, Effingham

Project Number: 20-030

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (*Please Print*) Amy Dammerman

City Effingham State Il. Zip 62401

Signature Amy Damm

II. REPRESENTATION (*This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of any group, organization or other entity.*)

Entity, Organization, etc. represented in this appearance (i.e., ABC Concerned Citizens for Health Care)

Amy Dammerman for Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/2/20

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center Effingham Medical Office Building, Effingham

Project Number: 20-030

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (*Please Print*) John Kingery

City Teutopolis State IL Zip 62467

Signature John F. Kingery

II. REPRESENTATION (*This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of any group, organization or other entity.*)

Entity, Organization, etc. represented in this appearance (i.e., ABC Concerned Citizens for Health Care)

St. Anthony's Hospital

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/2/20

PUBLIC COMMENTS IN OPPOSITION

TO CON PROJECT #20-030 – EFFINGHAM MEDICAL OFFICE BUILDING

GOOD AFTERNOON MR. CONSTANTINO AND MR ROATE, I APPRECIATE YOU HEARING MY CONCERNS TODAY.

MY NAME IS DR. RUBEN BOYAJIAN. I SPECIALIZE IN GENERAL SURGERY. I AM ALSO SERVING AS THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S WELLNESS CENTER AND CANCER SERVICES.

I AM AN INDEPENDENT PHYSICIAN, MEANING THAT I AM NOT AFFILIATED WITH EITHER THE C.O.N. APPLICANT OR THE AFFECTED HOSPITAL.

IN ADDITION TO BEING FREE OF DIRECT FINANCIAL TIES TO EITHER THE APPLICANT OR ST ANTHONY'S MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, MY TENURE AS A SURGEON IN EFFINGHAM DATES BACK WELL BEFORE THIS CON APPLICANT FIRST CAME TO TOWN. I CAME TO EFFINGHAM, MOONLIGHTING IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT ONE WEEK END A MONTH WHILE PROUDLY SERVING AS A MAJOR IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE.

AFTER MORE THAN 40 YEARS PRACTICING MEDICINE IN EFFINGHAM, I BELIEVE I UNDERSTAND THE COMMUNITY AND ITS HEALTH CARE NEEDS. I MAKE NO APOLOGY FOR ADVOCATING FOR MY HOME HOSPITAL AND COMMUNITY.

I RESPECTFULLY OPPOSE PROJECT #20-030 AS SUBMITTED. AN APPROPRIATELY SIZED REPLACEMENT BUILDING THAT DOES NOT DUPLICATE EXISTING HEALTH SERVICES WOULD ENJOY MY UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT. IN ITS CURRENT FORM, PROJECT #20-030 WILL INEVITABLY LEAD TO SERVICE CUTS AND JOB LOSSES AT OUR SOLE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL. THE NET EFFECT WILL BE NEGATIVE FOR THE EFFINGHAM AREA.

COLLABORATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN A CORNERSTONE OF EFFECTIVE RURAL HEALTH CARE. UNLIKE URBAN ENVIRONMENTS WITH MULTIPLE HOSPITALS AND OTHER PROVIDERS, RURAL AMERICA IS A ZERO-SUM GAME.

IN AREAS OF STATIC OR DECLINING POPULATION, LIKE EFFINGHAM, THE GAINS OF ONE PROVIDER CAN ONLY COME AT THE EXPENSE OF ANOTHER.

COLLABORATION AND EDUCATION OF OUR FUTURE PHYSICIANS AND HEALTH OCCUPATIONS COLLEAGUES IS ALSO WORK DONE AT ST. ANTHONY'S WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF COMMUNITY PHYSICIANS. THIS INVESTMENT IS BUILDING THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE FOR THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVED.

WHEN THE PHYSICIAN GROUP AFFILIATED WITH THIS APPLICATION FIRST ARRIVED SOME 20 YEARS AGO, ST ANTHONY'S COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE SUPPORTIVE. THE HOSPITAL GAVE THESE DOCTORS AN ENTIRE FLOOR AND EXCLUSIVE USE OF EXPENSIVE AND SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT. THESE PHYSICIANS THRIVED IN EFFINGHAM IN LARGE MEASURE BECAUSE OF THE SUPPORT THEY RECEIVED FROM ST ANTHONY'S.

A FEW SHORT YEARS AGO, THE APPLICANT ITSELF SHOWED UP IN TOWN – AND THE SUPPORT AND COLLABORATION BY ST. ANTHONY'S CONTINUED UNABATED. PHYSICIANS ASSOCIATED WITH THE APPLICANT ENJOY PRIVILEGES, SPACE AND ACCESS TO EQUIPMENT AT THE HOSPITAL. ST. ANTHONY'S HAS RECRUITED DOCTORS NOW AFFILIATED WITH THE APPLICANT. COLLABORATION THROUGH THE PHYSICIAN CERTIFIED INTEGRATED NETWORK HAS LED TO CONSISTENCY OF PRACTICE, QUALITY, COST CONTAINMENT AND RESOURCE UTILIZATION.

PERHAPS A HALLMARK OF THIS RECENT COLLABORATION WAS ST. ANTHONY'S BECOMING ONE OF JUST TWO HOSPITALS IN ILLINOIS TO EARN THE JOINT COMMISSION'S GOLD SEAL OF APPROVAL FOR ADVANCED TOTAL HIP AND KNEE REPLACEMENT CERTIFICATION.

COLLABORATION IN RURAL HEALTH CARE, AND SPECIFICALLY IN EFFINGHAM, IS NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER. THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAS FINANCIALLY CHALLENGED ALL ILLINOIS HOSPITALS, AND PRODUCED NECESSARY LAYOFFS AT ST. ANTHONY'S. ESPECIALLY NOW, IT MAKES LITTLE SENSE TO ALLOW THIS UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION OF EXISTING HOSPITAL SERVICES.

I TRULY HOPE THE STAFF AND MEMBERS OF THE REVIEW BOARD WILL FIND A WAY TO THE "WIN-WIN SOLUTION" THAT THIS COMMUNITY BOTH WANTS AND NEEDS AND DESERVES. A FIRST STEP IN GETTING THERE WOULD BE MORE COMPLETE INFORMATION ON THIS APPLICATION.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY PROVIDED TO EXPRESS MY OPINION ON THIS VERY IMPORTANT SUBJECT,

RESPECTFULLY,

RUBEN BOYAJIAN M.D.

Public Comment in Opposition
To CON Project #20-030 – Effingham Medical Office Building

Good afternoon. First, thank you to the Review Board staff for travelling to Effingham and convening this public hearing today.

My name is Theresa Rutherford. I have the honor of serving as President and CEO of HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital. I appear today in opposition to CON Project #20-030 as originally submitted.

Please know that it is extraordinarily rare for St. Anthony's or the Hospital Sisters Health System to oppose a CON application. In seven years as St. Anthony's CEO, and for nine previous years as a hospital COO, I personally have never been involved in opposing a CON project. We can find no record, at any point in its 144-year history, of St. Anthony's ever before opposing a CON application. Prior to opposing Project #20-030, to the best knowledge of anybody in its senior leadership, the Hospital Sisters Health System has only once before opposed a CON project on behalf of any of its nine Illinois hospitals. This is not something we do casually or take lightly.

The basis of our opposition is pretty simple: as proposed, Project #20-030 will unnecessarily duplicate existing and presently-underutilized hospital services, and redirect away from the hospital both patients and revenue that support essential but under-reimbursed hospital services, associated hospital jobs, and a wide range of community benefit projects (totaling over $11 million last year alone) by St. Anthony's. As anyone involved in health care would well understand, our concerns over this CON application are particularly acute given the harsh impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic on rural hospitals like ours.

The mission of St. Anthony's and the Hospital Sisters Health System is "to reveal and embody Christ's healing love for all people through our high-quality Franciscan health care ministry." Our hospital is non-profit as a matter of both law and mission. Hospital revenues are important to us only as a means of supporting our mission of service to the community.

This is personal to me. Every day for my immediate family, and also when my 7 grandchildren come to spend time in Effingham, I have the peace of mind knowing that a high quality hospital with essential services like an Emergency Department is just 12 minutes from our door.

It's personal to me every time I walk in our hospital's doors. I started my career back in 1977 as a nurse's aide, spent 11 years as a Licensed Practical Nurse, and 30 years ago became a Registered Nurse. Eventually, I became Chief Nursing Officer before assuming leadership roles as COO and now CEO. Those early years at the bedside – on the front line of delivering patient care – are deeply engrained in me.

I found my ultimate calling at St. Anthony's, a federally-designated Sole Community Hospital, where we provide care to everyone who seeks our services, regardless of financial means. The core values of St. Anthony's – respect, care, competence, and joy – deeply resonate with me.

Just weeks ago, in response to state-ordered curtailment of elective procedures and associated loss of hospital revenue, it was heartbreaking to lay off colleagues at St. Anthony's. I know what that meant for our team and their families, and to the communities we serve.

When this CON application was filed, and despite proposing new services, it completely omitted the usually included demonstration of need and documentation of impacts on existing area providers. We requested this hearing to get more information. We have no concerns over the modernization and replacement of an existing medical office building. Our concerns and objections center on the proposed expansion of existing and new services and a building size literally 2 ½ times as large as the original. Our difficulty is with the scope and scale, not the concept.

With more complete information and appropriate modifications, we ultimately hope to support this project – just not as presently proposed. We have long been extraordinary good partners with the providers represented by the CON applicant in providing health care to the Effingham and the surrounding communities, and we hope the ultimate resolution of this matter honors that partnership to further our mission of service.

Thank you.

Public Comment in Opposition
To CON Project #20-030 – Effingham Medical Office Building

My name is Julie Goebel, I am Vice President, Strategy, for the Illinois Division of Hospital Sisters Health System. Thank you Mr. Roate and Mr. Constantino for accommodating our public hearing request and providing this opportunity today.

We hope everyone understands that HSHS does not oppose the modernization of existing facilities. We have stated that repeatedly and affirm it again today. What we oppose is the unnecessary duplication of services, the costly over-expansion of facilities, and the creation of excess capacity in violation of the Review Board's regulations. This project violates those regulations in material ways. It is to that extent that we oppose it.

The permit application contained conflicting information as to the scope of this project and its compliance with applicable rules. After we made an initial inquiry about this, the applicant finally acknowledged just this week that yes, indeed, they did not follow the Board's rules, and they had omitted important information from the permit application.

They provided some new information, but it still conflicts with other representations they have made, and it still does not fully comply with the Review Board's rules.

They have not complied with the basic requirement of providing physician referral letters to show where the patients for their proposed services are coming from, and that the project will not adversely impact existing providers. The applicant now concedes that it did not provide the required referral letters. Although the applicant recently submitted some referral letters, it has not done so with respect to all required services. In addition, the submitted referral letters are incomplete as they do not attest to where the historical procedures were performed, and how many patients will be referred from each existing facility.

Their information is still incomplete, and still does not allow for a full assessment of the impact of this project. But the information they have

provided shows that the project is likely to have a large adverse impact on St. Anthony's.

For example, the applicant only has enough patient volume of its own to operate the Ultrasound equipment at 11% capacity. No one buys expensive medical equipment with the expectation it will hardly ever be used, which is what this application seems to suggest. They need to operate this equipment at a much higher capacity to make it viable. Since they cannot do so with their own patient volume, we can only assume they will seek to obtain this volume from St. Anthony's.

> They will need close to 3,000 patient visits that they do not currently have to operate the Ultrasound at full capacity.

They want a CT Scanner that they say will operate at less than 15% capacity. That is not a viable level of operation. Their new information admits that they are already planning to take volume away from St. Anthony's for the CT Scanner.

> They will need over 6,000 patient visits that they do not currently have to operate the CT Scanner at full capacity.

They want three X-ray machines even though they barely justify one with their own patient volume.

> They will need almost 15,000 X-Ray procedures that they do not currently have to operate the X-Ray machines at full capacity.

This is not a project designed to merely update old facilities and equipment. This is a highly aggressive expansion of services that requires substantial numbers of St. Anthony's patients to become financially viable. And to the extent this gamble pays off for them, it will severely impair the financial viability of St. Anthony's.

The Review Board's regulations and policies are intended to preserve the financial viability of existing providers within a community. This project is

not in compliance with those regulations, and should be denied as submitted.

Thank you.

Public Comment in Opposition
To CON Project #20-030 – Effingham Medical Office Building

Good afternoon Mr. Roate (pronounced "wrote") and Mr. Constantino. I appreciate you hearing my concerns today.

My name is Dr. Ruben Boyajian. I specialize in general surgery, among other areas. I am an independent physician, meaning that I'm not affiliated with either the CON applicant or the affected hospital.

In addition to being free of direct financial ties to either the applicant or HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital, my tenure as a doctor in Effingham dates back well before this CON applicant first came to town. After nearly 40 years practicing medicine in Effingham, I believe I understand the community and its health care needs.

I respectfully oppose Project #20-030 as submitted. An appropriately sized replacement building that does not duplicate existing health care services would enjoy my unqualified support. In its current form, Project #20-030 will inevitably lead to service cuts and job losses at our Sole Community Hospital. The net affect will be negative for the Effingham area.

Collaboration has always been a cornerstone of effective rural health care. Unlike urban environments with multiple hospitals and other providers, rural America is a zero-sum game. In areas of static or declining population, like Effingham, the gains of one provider can only come at the expense of another.

When the physician group affiliated with this application first arrived some 20 years ago, St. Anthony's could not have been more supportive. The hospital gave these doctors an entire floor and exclusive use of expensive equipment. These physicians thrived in Effingham in large measure because of the support they received from St. Anthony's.

A few short years ago, the applicant itself showed up in town – and the support and collaboration by St. Anthony's continued unabated. Physicians associated with the applicant enjoy privileges, space and access to equipment at the hospital. St. Anthony's has recruited doctors now affiliated with the applicant. Collaboration through the Physician Certified Integrated Network has led to consistency of practice, quality, cost containment and resource utilization.

Perhaps a hallmark of this recent collaboration was St. Anthony's becoming one of just two hospitals in Illinois to earn The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval for Advanced Total Hip and Knee Replacement Certification.

Collaboration in rural health care, and specifically in Effingham, is needed now more than ever. The COVID-19 pandemic has financially challenged all Illinois hospitals, and produced necessary, but unfortunate layoffs at St. Anthony's. Especially now, it makes little sense to allow this unnecessary duplication of existing hospital services. A right-sized building without new procedures is far more appropriate.

I truly hope the staff and members of the Review Board will find a way to the "win-win solution" that this community both wants and needs. A first step in getting there would be more complete information on this application.

Thank you.

Public Comment in Opposition
To CON Project #20-030 – Effingham Medical Office Building

Good afternoon, and thank you for coming to Effingham to hear public comment on this CON application.

My name is Dr. John Scherschel, electrophysiologist and President of Prairie Cardiovascular. Prairie is a 72-physician cardiovascular specialty group which includes cardiology, vascular medicine, and electrophysiology, and serves patients across central and southern Illinois. We have a full-time location within the Prairie Heart Institute at St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital in Effingham. We are affiliated with the Hospital Sisters Health System.

I respectfully oppose CON Project #20-030. An appropriately sized replacement building that does not duplicate hospital services merits approval, but not this application as submitted.

Prairie Cardiovascular has served the Effingham community for more than 30 years. We are deeply concerned over the duplication of higher-margin outpatient services represented here, which can only lead to service cuts, job losses and reduced community engagement by HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital, a federally designated Sole Community Hospital.

I want to respond to public comments by the applicant's CEO, who last week said: "I'm looking out my window at a brand-new multimillion-dollar building at HSHS St. Anthony's just built a mile from Sarah Bush." Quite frankly, that HSHS building is not at all comparable to the one proposed in this CON application.

First, the new HSHS building is just one-fifth the size of the 65,400 square foot building proposed in Project #20-030, and a small fraction of the cost. More important is why that HSHS building came to be needed at all. After the CON applicant unilaterally terminated a long-standing, exclusive, professional services agreement with Prairie Cardiovascular, it became necessary for HSHS to construct that small building to assure that Coles County residents had continued access to cardiology, electrophysiology and vascular services. So again, a completely different story than the situation with this CON application.

If anything, this reference to a new HSHS building hurts, not helps, the CON applicant's case here. The HSHS building sought to maintain existing services to a community, while the applicant today proposes a big expansion and new services. The HSHS building was so small and inexpensive that no CON was required, while the applicant today proposes a very pricey and oversized new building to support new services. The thing they have in common: both unfortunately were borne of non-collaboration by this CON applicant.

Our sole community hospital has endeavored to be a good partner with the applicant in serving the greater Effingham area. St. Anthony's has long provided hospital privileges, space and equipment to physicians associated with the applicant. The hospital has also recruited physicians to the Effingham community who now work for the applicant. St. Anthony's and the applicant collaborated to become one of only two hospitals in Illinois to earn The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval for Advanced Total Hip and Knee Replacement Certification. That sort of collaboration is critical to the long-term viability of rural health care.

In closing, I sincerely believe that we can and should ultimately get to an appropriate, win-win result but this is predicated upon our community and all stakeholders being afforded fuller and clearer information on Project #20-030. To date, the applicant has provided vague and inconsistent information about the scope and impacts of this project. Please, let's all work together to achieve the right outcome for all concerned, especially the people of the greater Effingham area.

Thank you.

Public Comment in Opposition
To CON Project #20-030 – Effingham Medical Office Building

I am Dr. Andrew Mahtani. I serve the Effingham community as a hospitalist. For those unfamiliar with the term, that means I am a dedicated inpatient physician who works exclusively in a hospital. Specifically, for me, that is HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital, an officially designated Sole Community Hospital in Effingham.

I appreciate the Review Board staff for coming here today. I respectfully appear in opposition to Project #20-030 as proposed.

It may be that, in other times, Illinois officials could be less vigilant in safeguarding against unnecessary duplication of existing hospital services. If so, that should no longer be the case, given the enormous financial and operational challenges to all hospitals from this ongoing CoVid-19 pandemic. No category of hospital has been more profoundly harmed than rural hospitals. Their always-delicate financial conditions have been strained in an unprecedented manner.

St. Anthony's has been responding to this pandemic since March. Among other things, the hospital prepared a COVID-19 unit; conserved Personal Protective Equipment; and followed CDC guidelines, Executive Orders of the Governor, and IDPH guidance to close non-emergency services. St. Anthony's followed state orders, and prepared for an influx of COVID-19 patients that never came. The loss of revenue from curtailed elective procedures was never offset by COVID-19-related patient volume.

All the while, our Sole Community Hospital continued to make its essential services and resources available, even as usage declined. Federal CARES Act funds helped somewhat, but they didn't come close to making St. Anthony's whole for its COVID-19 losses. Hospital layoffs became necessary.

While the hospital has gradually seen an improvement in patient volumes and revenue, they remain well below pre-COVID-19 numbers.

Fully 75.9% of St. Anthony's revenue comes from outpatient procedures of the sort that are duplicated in this CON application. That revenue must cross-subsidize essential services, including the emergency room, respiratory therapy, obstetrics, emergent surgery

and post-operative care, and intensive care units. I am deeply concerned that Project #20-030 will threaten our Sole Community Hospital's ability to sustain these essential services.

I sincerely hope that the Review Board will be especially vigilant, during this pandemic, in safeguarding against the unnecessary duplication of existing and currently-underutilized hospital services. The incomplete, vague and inconsistent information provided thus far by the CON applicant is not fully fair to the Effingham community. I hope the Review Board will insist on fuller and clearer documentation, and ultimately approve an appropriate "win-win solution" – a right-sized replacement building without duplicated services.

Thank you for your time.

Public Comment in Opposition
To CON Project #20-030 – Effingham Medical Office Building

Good afternoon, my name is Meghan Rewers. I serve as Executive Director of Crisis Nursery of Effingham County. I appear before you as an opponent to CON Project #20-030 in its current form.

Ours is just one of many community organizations in Effingham that exist largely due to the support of HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital. We provide protection from and prevention of childhood trauma, abuse and neglect through 24-hour emergency shelter care. At Crisis Nursery, there are no income or demographic guidelines. Our services are free and open to any family or child in need. We help children from birth to age six. Over the last three years, Crisis Nursery has provided more than 500 children with more than 20,000 collective hours of emergency childcare services.

St. Anthony's provided the seed money for the development of Crisis Nursery and remains our most significant source of financial and operational support. It is no exaggeration to say that, but for St. Anthony's, Crisis Nursery would not exist.

The continued existence of many other community organizations in Effingham largely depends upon St. Anthony's. There is no question that our rural community is better for it.

No new patients or doctors are envisioned by this CON application. Only a redirection of outpatient volume away from a federally-designated Sole Community Hospital that already operates below state utilization standards. By shifting revenue out of St. Anthony's, Project #20-030 will leave our rural hospital with fewer resources to engage in the important community support upon which the Effingham community has come to rely.

Nobody objects to a similarly-sized replacement medical office building that does not duplicate existing hospital services. It's the scope and scale – not the basic concept – that is a problem. A win-win solution for everyone should be possible. To get there, I do believe the applicant should give everyone more information, not the incomplete and inconsistent documentation submitted thus far. Our community simply cannot afford to get this wrong.

Thank you.

Public Comment in Opposition
To CON Project #20-030 – Effingham Medical Office Building

Good afternoon. I am Sister Carol Beckermann, a Franciscan Sister of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. I serve as Area Director of Effingham Catholic Charities.

I respectfully oppose this CON application as submitted. If the applicant refiles this project to avoid duplicating existing services at HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital – a non-profit and federally-designated Sole Community Hospital – my concerns would be addressed.

As with many significant civic and charitable organizations in our region, Effingham Catholic Charities has enjoyed long, significant and necessary support from St. Anthony's. That support takes many forms, including:

- medical prescription assistance, predominantly in the form of emergency medication copays;
- free or greatly reduced diabetic medication and nutrition counseling;
- vouchers for uninsured dental needs;
- donations to our pantry's "wellness food bags," including special foods for those with diabetes or heart disease; and
- a gallon of milk each month for all our pantry clients.

Duplicating services and redirecting patient volumes and revenue away from our Sole Community Hospital, as proposed in Project #20-030, will put at risk St. Anthony's continuing support for the work of Effingham Catholic Charities and many other charitable and civic organizations. Hospital service cuts and job losses are also a real and likely inevitable possibility.

I sincerely believe that our community would benefit from fuller, clearer and more consistent information regarding Project #20-030. Perhaps in an effort to simplify things for an audience unfamiliar with hospital operations and finances, the applicant has left out

important details when describing this project to the public. This week, for example, the applicant took out newspaper ads soliciting letters of support for Project #20-030, describing it simply as a modernization. Earlier press releases and press statements likewise failed to mention the new services. Even in the application itself, the new services were not accompanied by the traditional demonstration of need and documented impacts on existing area providers. As with many things, details matter.

A mere modernization and replacement of an existing medical office building would not raise the concerns present in Project #20-030. I hope the Review Board will deny this CON application as originally submitted, and ultimately approve a modernization that does not duplicate existing hospital services.

Thank you.

Public Comment in Opposition
To CON Project #20-030 – Effingham Medical Office Building

Good afternoon, and thank you to the Review Board staff for being here today. I speak in opposition to CON Project #20-030 as currently proposed.

My name is John Kingery. I am the founder of one of Effingham's largest employers, Kingery Printing Company, and am deeply committed to and involved in my local community.

My wife and I started Kingery Printing 52 years ago in a small, rented building on the courthouse square in Effingham. Over the years our business grew, requiring a succession of moves to ever-larger spaces in Effingham. In 1984, we finally built our own facility on 10 acres of land just outside Effingham, and it now spans over 75,000 square feet.

Throughout those many years, and with a deep sense of gratitude for all this community has done for our business, I have donated both time and resources to many civic and charitable organizations in and around Effingham. Years ago, I served as a volunteer board member of HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital.

I well understand the Effingham area, the healthcare needs of its people, and what our Sole Community Hospital means to this community.

St. Anthony's is the largest employer in Effingham County. It provides all essential hospital services, including an emergency room that never closes. St. Anthony's serves everyone, including those who cannot pay for services. St. Anthony's supports our local schools, our park district, and our police and fire departments with a wide range of medical services. Many social services organizations in the greater Effingham area are supported by St. Anthony's.

In short, the 144-year-old hospital is foundationally important to virtually every aspect of life in Effingham. It is a precious asset worthy of preservation.

Folks around here witnessed the harsh impacts of COVID-19 on our hospital, which led to unavoidable layoffs. The always-fragile foundation of rural healthcare has never required more care and attention than now.

The proposed new services in this CON application, as well as the oversized replacement building, are simply not in the best interest of our community.

Please do not allow an unnecessary duplication of existing and presently-underutilized hospital services. Please do not redirect patient volume and revenue away from a hospital that requires those resources to support essential services, jobs and community involvement. Please "right-size" this project.

We can and should do better. A win-win solution is certainly possible consistent with the Review Board's regulations. To that end, it would help everyone to have complete, clear and consistent information from the applicant.

Thank you.

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General Assembly
state of Illinois

Dale A. Righter

State Senator • 55th District

August 30, 2020

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Members of the Board:

I write you today in support of the proposed Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Clinic structure, intended as a replacement for the current facility {Effingham Medical Office Building #20-030). Thank you for the opportunity to provide my thoughts on this issue.

As the State Senator from the 55th district, my area of representation includes both Effingham and Coles Counties. My interest is two-fold; first, to see that an accurate, fact-based discussion of the application and its potential impact takes precedence. Second, I am an advocate for the overall advancement of this region, both in terms of financial investment and patient care.

As you are aware, the application before you contemplates the construction of a replacement medical facility, which represents an approximately $35 million investment in the City of Effingham for purposes of housing, with one small exception, services already being provided by the Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Clinic. Currently the Clinic's services are housed in several facilities throughout the City of Effingham. The new facility will allow for consolidation of several services under one roof; the benefit to the patients who choose to seek services at the Clinic is both clear and substantial.

The sole exception referenced above is the addition of a single CT scan machine. According to submitted materials, and other available information, St. Anthony's Hospital in Effingham, a facility owned by the HSHS system based in Springfield, performs approximately

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13,600 CT scans per year; the addition of a single CT scan machine at the Clinic will result in approximately 300 scans, currently performed at the HSHS facility in Effingham, being provided by the Clinic instead. As a percentage, that would constitute a mere 2% of the scans performed.

Critical to the evaluation of this application, as with all such applications, is the willingness to ensure that public comments regarding the potential impact of any project be verified by and comport with the application itself. On that note, claims have been made that the St. Anthony's HSHS facility will lose over $30 million in revenue as a result of the project at issue. But from my review of the application and other materials available, there is no evidence to support such a claim. Any significant revenue loss to St. Anthony's which results from the Clinic's operations is occurring already today; the construction of a new building to replace the current facilities will not change that fact.

As I noted at the top of this correspondence, my interest in this issue is driven by a desire to see that discussion and consideration of this application be driven by the contents and predictable impacts of the actual project under consideration, and the advancement of this region as a whole. The proposed medical office building, in bringing the services already being provided by the Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Clinic under one roof and investing $35 million in new construction in Effingham, is certainly an advancement both financially and in terms of patient care.

As such, I respectfully urge the Board to approve the application.

Sincerely,

Dale A. Righter

Dale A. Righter
State Senator
55th District

Testimony of Peter Bonutti, MD
To the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
September 2, 2020

Speaker
Peter Bonutti, MD (read into the record by Nick Williams, PA-C)

Affiliation
Orthopedic Surgeon, Sarah Bush Lincoln

Testimony
Good afternoon. I am Nick Williams reading remarks prepared by Peter Bonutti, Orthopedic Surgeon at Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Clinic.

My remarks summarize the written testimony that I am submitting today.

I am Peter Bonutti and it is my name on the building and the practice. I am an orthopedic surgeon and for the past 30 years, I have done everything in my power to provide excellent and cutting-edge care to my patients. Despite offers to practice at prestigious institutions like Stanford, Emery, and University of Florida among others, I chose to practice in Effingham, Illinois bringing the newest orthopedic care to my patients. Patients have traveled from 41 states and six countries to the Bonutti Clinic for their care. We see patients on a daily basis who travel hundreds of miles to our clinic. This has required us to build a multidisciplinary facility which will encompass all clinical and diagnostic services under one roof; therefore allowing patients to have access to all services in the same day. This consolidation of services enhances not only the quality, but the cost efficiency of the patient's care.

Despite exclusive work for more than 25 years with St. Anthony's Hospital, it became clear that St. Anthony's / HSHS was not willing to adequately invest in our practice and a much needed new facility.

Three years ago, Jerry Esker, the Sarah Bush Lincoln President & CEO, and I talked about advancing orthopedics and the quality of care. After understanding Jerry and Sarah Bush Lincoln's commitment for improving and investing in the quality of care for our patients, not only I, but the entire group of providers and staff all chose to partner with SBL. After five years of attempting to negotiate a partnership with HSHS, we realized they would not make the investment in a quality facility. Instead, HSHS demanded I travel to numerous facilities up to and including the metro St. Louis area and provide orthopedic and surgical care there, rather than keeping it in our Effingham community. This would have meant spending a substantial amount of time and business outside of the Effingham area. (Breeze, Greenville and O'Fallon). This would have taken surgeries and revenue away from Effingham.

Our partnership allows me to focus on patient care while continuing my research and development. We have published more than 100 papers, have more than 400 patents, and in excess of 700 licenses for medical products. This also allows me to continue to bring cutting-

edge technology to Central Illinois. I share this information simply because the accumulation of clinical practice, clinical research, and medical product development has brought Effingham both national and international notoriety.

Sarah Bush Lincoln's reinvestment in the local community is what earned my trust and convinced me to partner with it three years ago. With the substantial investment Sarah Bush Lincoln is making in this new facility, it has shown 100 percent reinvestment in the local community. This is essential for providing quality of care and will serve our community for decades to come. My partners, to this date, still cover ER orthopedic call at HSHS St. Anthony's hospital which is a valuable service to the community.

Sarah Bush Lincoln focuses on quality and safety for its patients. It is the recipient of the Top Rural Hospital, and a grade of 'A' from the prestigious Leapfrog Group, a nationally recognized group that measures quality and safety. These recognitions placed Sarah Bush Lincoln in the top 6 percent of hospitals nationwide!

Community members have embraced us by giving us many awards throughout the years. This year, I was presented the "Vocational Excellence Award" from the Effingham Noon Rotary group by the former Mayor of Effingham, Mr. Jeff Bloemker. Therefore, showing the Effingham community continues to support us and has always trusted us with their care.

During my 30 years of contributing to the local economy, by attracting patients from around the United States, employing approximately 200 individuals at the clinic and research facility, attracting CEOs and corporate executives to Effingham to evaluate and license technology, I have never asked nor have received any financial incentives from the city. Sarah Bush is providing all capital to build a first- rate medical building.

Even HSHS agrees the Bonutti Clinic needs to be replaced. Our current structure is 50+ years old and is not able to accommodate growth. This certificate of need application spells out specifically why the space is needed and how it will be used.

The clinic we are asking to build is a high quality building that will combine several Effingham medical practices into one location, and streamline services, and create efficiencies and comfort for all our patients. It is amazing that Sarah Bush Lincoln is willing to invest $35 million into a state-of-the-art building for our community. This new facility is its long-term commitment to providing jobs, and quality of care in the Effingham community.

Sarah Bush Lincoln is a dedicated organization with the largest orthopedic group in downstate Illinois that provides specialty services not available through HSHS St. Anthony. The subspecialists at Sarah Bush Lincoln will be using this facility to provide care. Sarah Bush Lincoln continues to grow because of its commitment to reinvest in its communities and helps everyone regardless of payor source. It is exactly why we entered medicine – to help everyone in need, not just those with insurance.

Please accept this letter as an indication of my wholehearted support of Effingham Medical Office Building #20-030. I look forward to an expedited approval of the Certificate of Need as

our aging facility is in urgent need of a new quality building to continue to provide excellent care to our patients.

Testimony of Doug Wohltman
To the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
September 2, 2020

Speaker
Doug Wohltman

Affiliation
Wohltman Construction, Effingham

Testimony
Good afternoon. I am Doug Wohltman, of Wohltman Construction of Effingham, IL

My remarks summarize the written testimony that I am submitting today.

As an Effingham business owner and resident, I am writing in support of the newly proposed Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Clinic (Effingham Medical Office Building #20-030).

I was very surprised to learn that HSHS St. Anthony Hospital had filed an objection to this $35 million project. St. Anthony and HSHS have been "right sizing" their organization for some time. In a community of 12,000 people, the loss of 100+ jobs hurts. It also hurts the local auto dealers, the furniture stores, the restaurants and retail establishments. Without a doubt, we need Sarah Bush Lincoln, its facilities, and its investment into our community.

This replacement building represents positive growth for this entrepreneurial community. Besides the significant amount of construction jobs this project will bring Effingham during the 18-month build process, the project will create a considerable amount of "trickle down" jobs in the community. A building of this caliber along I-70 will most definitely be a welcome addition to the landscape and create a "wow" impression to those taking exit 160 into Effingham.

This is a time for all Effingham businesses to focus on the community-at-large and move forward with a growth mindset.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I urge you to approve the Effingham Medical Office Building #20-030.

Testimony of Doug Wohltman
To the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
September 2, 2020

Speaker
Doug Wohltman

Affiliation
Wohltman Construction, Effingham

Testimony
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This is a time for all Effingham businesses to focus on the community-at-large and move forward with a growth mindset.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I urge you to approve the Effingham Medical Office Building #20-030.

Public Comment in Opposition
To CON Project #20-030 – Effingham Medical Office Building

Good afternoon, my name is Meghan Rewers. I serve as Executive Director of Crisis Nursery of Effingham County. I appear before you as an opponent to CON Project #20-030 in its current form.

Ours is just one of many community organizations in Effingham that exist largely due to the support of St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital. We provide protection from and prevention of childhood trauma, abuse and neglect through 24-hour emergency shelter care. At Crisis Nursery, there are no income or demographic guidelines. Our services are free and open to any family or child in need. We help children from birth to age six. Over the last three years, Crisis Nursery has provided more than 500 children with more than 20,000 collective hours of emergency childcare services.

St. Anthony's provided the seed money for the development of Crisis Nursery, and remains our most significant source of financial and operational support. It is no exaggeration to say that, but for St. Anthony's, Crisis Nursery would not exist.

The continued existence of many other community organizations in Effingham largely depends upon St. Anthony's. There is no question that our rural community is better for it.

No new patients or doctors are envisioned by this CON application. Only a redirection of outpatient volume away from a federally-designated Sole Community Hospital that already operates below state utilization standards. By shifting revenue out of St. Anthony's, Project #20-030 will leave our rural hospital with fewer resources to engage in the important community support upon which the Effingham community has come to rely.

Nobody objects to a similarly-sized replacement medical office building that does not duplicate existing hospital services. It's the scope and scale – not the basic concept – that is a problem. A win-win solution for everyone should be possible. To get there, I do believe the applicant should give everyone more information, not the incomplete and inconsistent documentation submitted thus far. Our community simply cannot afford to get this wrong.

Thank you.

Testimony of Amy Dammerman
To the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
September 2, 2020

Speaker
Amy Dammerman

Affiliation
Director Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Clinic

Testimony
Good afternoon. I am Amy Dammerman, Clinic Director at Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Clinic in Effingham, Illinois.

My remarks summarize the written testimony that I am submitting today.

I am supporting the Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Clinic (Effingham Medical Office Building #20-030) because Sarah Bush Lincoln continues to invest in Effingham, my hometown.

I am Amy Dammerman, the director of Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Clinic. I manage the day-to-day operations of the busy clinic, solve issues, hire staff and address the needs of the medical team. Before I talk about why this is a critical project for Effingham, I want to talk about the investment Sarah Bush Lincoln has made in Effingham. To date, my organization has invested nearly $13 million in new buildings and land acquisitions in the last 12 years. I am not even tallying the cost of equipment in various buildings.

This Effingham medical office building is an important replacement project. The roof leaks, the HVAC system is inefficient, it floods during heavy rains, there are issues with the automatic doors, the MRI is outside the building, it is poorly designed and floors are uneven where additions to the building were added. Despite all these failings, the underlying issue is space. We have 14 medical staff members providing care in crowded and cramped exam rooms. It is not ideal and certainly not comfortable for patients and employees. I participated in the new design and I can guarantee that there is no shell space for later developments. There will be no surgeries performed in this building. It is not even a part of the incredibly detailed application. The noted procedure rooms are for treatments like joint injections and sutures. Every square inch of this 65,400 square foot building is designated for use.

The medical and clinic staff is beloved by their patients. The community has embraced Sarah Bush Lincoln and this $35 million investment in Effingham. It allows us to consolidate several of our existing busy Effingham practices. We employ more than 100 local and area residents in this building, and 345 Effingham County residents throughout our Health System. These well-paying jobs impact the community and help keep the economy moving.

Some people have claimed we are offering redundant services. That is not true. In fact, throughout the pandemic, the SBL Walk-In Clinic remained opened and provided care for many

people who needed care quickly. HSHS St. Anthony's Convenient Care shuttered during the pandemic and reopened this past weekend. We were glad to be available to serve the community. We continue to provide COVID-19 specimen collection and testing to Effingham.

In HSHS St. Anthony's President & CEO Theresa Rutherford's radio interview recently, she talked about how HSHS had to "right size" its organization and asked local businesses to hire those they let go. Sarah Bush Lincoln has offered positions to several of these people with valuable healthcare knowledge and experience.

If this CON is approved, we start building right away and infuse money into the economy. If this is not approved, we continue to provide the same world-class care we always have in a deteriorating and undersized building. In this entrepreneurial community, I cannot believe they want the latter.

I strongly urge you to approve the Certificate of Need for the Effingham Medical Office Building #20-030. Thank you for your time.

Public Comment in Opposition
To CON Project #20-030 – Effingham Medical Office Building

My name is Julie Goebel, I am Vice President, Strategy, for the Illinois Division of Hospital Sisters Health System. Thank you Mr. Roate and Mr. Constantino for accommodating our public hearing request and providing this opportunity today.

We hope everyone understands that HSHS does not oppose the modernization of existing facilities. We have stated that repeatedly and affirm it again today. What we oppose is the unnecessary duplication of services, the costly over-expansion of facilities, and the creation of excess capacity in violation of the Review Board's regulations. This project violates those regulations in material ways. It is to that extent that we oppose it.

The permit application contained conflicting information as to the scope of this project and its compliance with applicable rules. After we made an initial inquiry about this, the applicant finally acknowledged just this week that yes, indeed, they did not follow the Board's rules, and they had omitted important information from the permit application.

They provided some new information, but it still conflicts with other representations they have made, and it still does not fully comply with the Review Board's rules.

They have not complied with the basic requirement of providing physician referral letters to show where the patients for their proposed services are coming from, and that the project will not adversely impact existing providers. The applicant now concedes that it did not provide the required referral letters. Although the applicant recently submitted some referral letters, it has not done so with respect to all required services. In addition, the submitted referral letters are incomplete as they do not attest to where the historical procedures were performed, and how many patients will be referred from each existing facility.

Their information is still incomplete, and still does not allow for a full assessment of the impact of this project. But the information they have

provided shows that the project is likely to have a large adverse impact on St. Anthony's.

For example, the applicant only has enough patient volume of its own to operate the Ultrasound equipment at 11% capacity. No one buys expensive medical equipment with the expectation it will hardly ever be used, which is what this application seems to suggest. They need to operate this equipment at a much higher capacity to make it viable. Since they cannot do so with their own patient volume, we can only assume they will seek to obtain this volume from St. Anthony's.

> They will need close to 3,000 patient visits that they do not currently have to operate the Ultrasound at full capacity.

They want a CT Scanner that they say will operate at less than 15% capacity. That is not a viable level of operation. Their new information admits that they are already planning to take volume away from St. Anthony's for the CT Scanner.

> They will need over 6,000 patient visits that they do not currently have to operate the CT Scanner at full capacity.

They want three X-ray machines even though they barely justify one with their own patient volume.

> They will need almost 15,000 X-Ray procedures that they do not currently have to operate the X-Ray machines at full capacity.

This is not a project designed to merely update old facilities and equipment. This is a highly aggressive expansion of services that requires substantial numbers of St. Anthony's patients to become financially viable. And to the extent this gamble pays off for them, it will severely impair the financial viability of St. Anthony's.

The Review Board's regulations and policies are intended to preserve the financial viability of existing providers within a community. This project is

not in compliance with those regulations, and should be denied as submitted.

Thank you.

Public Comment in Opposition
To CON Project #20-030 – Effingham Medical Office Building

Good afternoon. First, thank you to the Review Board staff for travelling to Effingham and convening this public hearing today. This process was established as a format for questions such as ours to be addressed.

My name is Theresa Rutherford. I have the honor of serving as President and CEO of HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital. I appear today in opposition to CON Project #20-030 as originally submitted.

Please know that it is extraordinarily rare for St. Anthony's or the Hospital Sisters Health System to oppose a CON application. In seven years as St. Anthony's CEO, and for nine previous years as a hospital COO, I personally have never been involved in opposing a CON project. We can find no record, at any point in its 144-year history, of St. Anthony's ever before opposing a CON application. Prior to opposing Project #20-030, to the best knowledge of anybody in its senior leadership, the Hospital Sisters Health System has only once before opposed a CON project on behalf of any of its nine Illinois hospitals. This is not something we do casually or take lightly.

The basis of our opposition is simple in my view: as proposed, Project #20-030 will unnecessarily duplicate existing and presently-underutilized hospital services, and redirect away from the hospital both patients and revenue that support essential but under-reimbursed hospital services, associated hospital jobs, and a wide range of community benefit projects (totaling over $11 million last year alone) by St. Anthony's. As anyone involved in health care would well understand, our concerns over this CON application are particularly acute given the harsh impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic on rural hospitals like ours.

The mission of St. Anthony's and the Hospital Sisters Health System is "to reveal and embody Christ's healing love for all people through our high-quality Franciscan health care ministry." Our hospital is non-profit as a matter of both law and mission. Hospital revenues are important to us as a means of supporting our mission of service to the community.

This is personal to me. Every day for my immediate family, and also when my 7 grandchildren come to spend time in Effingham, I have the peace of mind knowing that a

Testimony of Erica Stollard
To the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
September 2, 2020

Speaker
Erica Stollard

Affiliation
Director of Planning and Business Development at Sarah Bush Lincoln

Testimony
Good afternoon. I am Erica Stollard, Director of Planning and Business Development at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center in Mattoon, Illinois.

My remarks summarize the written testimony that I am submitting today.

Sarah Bush Lincoln has submitted a CON application to construct a Medical Office Building in Effingham Illinois, which will replace our outdated Medical Office Building and house existing services we currently provide in Effingham.

We respectfully request the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve the project for the following reasons.

First, the application has documented the need for the project as required in the Illinois certificate of need (CON) rules. The current medical office building is under-sized and dilapidated. It was built 50 years ago as a skating rink. Dr. Peter Bonutti converted the space into a medical office building several years ago. The current volume warrants a 65,400- square-feet, two-story medical office building. The replacement building will be constructed just east of our existing medical office building and the current medical office building will be demolished upon occupancy of the new building. The application clearly documents the project does not include unfinished or shell space. All space is designated for medical office building use.

Sarah Bush Lincoln meets the Illinois State Standards for the size of the project. Sarah Bush Lincoln conducted 40,143 office visits in Effingham-bases practices in FY 20 showing a 5 percent growth. SBL projects a 7 percent growth each year for the next three years.

Sarah Bush Lincoln also meets the Illinois State Standards for the utilization of the project for CT, ultrasound and MRI services. The project meets the State Standards for two x-ray machines, which will be placed on the second floor in the orthopedic clinic. A third x-ray machine is being requested for this project, which will be located on the first floor in the Walk-In Clinic. This will allow for Walk-In patients to receive access to x-ray images without disrupting patient care in the orthopedic clinic.

Because there are no specific State utilization standards for patient exam rooms, procedure rooms, laboratory services or rehabilitation services, the size of the area was determined based on review of historical volumes and future projected demand.

All services, with the exception of CT, are currently provided in the Effingham Planning Area. The CT imaging is necessary and will be primarily used in conjunction with the MAKO robotic arm for hip and knee joint replacement. The application has clearly documented that the addition of CT will not negatively impact HSHS St. Anthony's Hospital. Based on the most recent data available in the Illinois Hospital Profile Report, HSHS St. Anthony's will continue to operate at a capacity of 94.8 percent for CT Scan services.

Also, the project clearly meets the Financial Viability criterion and is documented in the application. Sarah Bush Lincoln has an A+ bond rating from Standard and Poor's.

Lastly, I would like to draw your attention to the thousands of individuals who are supporting this project. The press release announcing the project, the editorial from the Effingham Daily News supporting our project, and other media interviews have generated hundreds of social media comments in support of this project. Additionally, 301 Effingham residents have signed a petition supporting the project, 1074 employees from Sarah Bush Lincoln have submitted letters of support, and more than 100 respected business leaders and community members from Effingham and the surrounding communities have submitted letters of support for this project. Attached to my testimony, I am submitting the media coverage, petitions, and social media comments related to this project so that you may directly review the incredible support and enthusiasm we have received to replace our Medical Office Building.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony today. I strongly encourage you to approve the Effingham Medical Office Building, project #20-030.

SBL Bonutti Clinic just waiting on state permit for $35M building

DAILY NEWS

Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Clinic in Effingham just needs the approval of a state review board before it begins construction of a $35 million building to replace its aging offices on Evergreen Street in Effingham.

SBL has submitted a "Certificate of Need" application with the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board, according to a press release. Construction could begin as early as October once the permit is approved.

"We're pleased to further invest in Effingham with this long-term commitment to provide excellent medical care," SBL President and CEO Jerry Esker said in the press release. "We are honored to receive such a warm welcome over the more than dozen years we have provided care here."

In all, Sarah Bush Lincoln employs 354 residents of Effingham County.

The proposed project would replace for the deteriorating SBL Bonutti Clinic at 1303 Evergreen St. with a 65,400-square-foot building that will accommodate services currently in Sarah Bush Lincoln buildings in Effingham.

According to the press release, the two-story building will house the established practices of:

See CLINIC on A2

Artist's rendering of planned SBL Bonutti Clinic

CLINIC

CONTINUED FROM A1

- Six orthopedists and four of the orthopedic advanced practice providers (Joseph Ajdinovich, MD, Peter Bonutti, MD, Michael Chioffe, MD, Kayla Deters, APRN, Stacia Fallert, APRN, Timothy Gray, MD, Frank Lee, MD, Didi Omiyi, MD, Nick Williams, PA-C, and Tom Williams, PA-C)
- Occupational Medicine practice (Louis Schwing, MD, and Jennifer Hess, APRN)
- Interventional Pain Management practice (Brian Ogan, MD)
- Primary Care (Internal Medicine Physician Louis Schwing, MD, and Family Medicine practitioner Cari Fearday, PA-C)
- Walk-In Clinic (Doug Kabbes, MD, and Nicholas Watkins, PA-C)
- Rehabilitation Services, including physical and occupational medicine with a rehab pool, and speech therapy
- Diagnostic imaging including general radiology, CT, MRI and ultrasound; clinical laboratory services
- Office space, conference room and storage areas.

Dawn Schabbing | Daily News

Sarah Bush Lincoln wants to raze the current Bonutti Clinic and replace it with a $35 million facility.

Surgeries and procedures will not be performed in the new SBL Bonutti Clinic. They will continue to be performed at the Effingham Ambulatory Surgery Center and at Sarah Bush Lincoln.

Sarah Bush Lincoln purchased the land and two adjacent parcels and requested the city rezone the parcels to comply with the services that are proposed for the site, SBL Facility Services Director Tim Kastl explained in the press release. The plan is to build the new building behind the existing one-story structure and then raze the old building to make room for the parking lot. Construction is expected to take about 18 months.

The release noted that the current SBL Bonutti Clinic was originally constructed more than 50 years ago as a roller skating rink and later served as a shopping center. The building is inefficient and has several issues including a poor HVAC system and leaky roof.

"It has outgrown its usefulness," Kastl said.

The proposed building will have a drive-up canopied entrance out front and a partially covered drop-off entrance on the north side for the Walk-In Clinic. The MRI, which is currently docked outside the building will be placed inside. The modern building will be finished with brick, stone and metals. The interior will feature a large tiled foyer and area to display art from the Effingham County Art Guild.

The project will be paid for with the sale of bonds. Sarah Bush Lincoln has an A+ bond rating from Standard & Poor's Global Ratings.

lospital objects to scope of $35M project

JEFF LONG
DAILY NEWS

SHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hos-
l has filed an objection with the
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llinois Health Facilities and Ser-
s Review Board for a project that
ld replace the aging SBL Bonutti
ic at 1303 Evergreen St. with a

See **PROJECT** on A2

Artist's rendering of planned SBL Bonutti Clinic

PROJECT

CONTINUED FROM A1

65,400-square-foot building that it said will accommodate services now housed in SBL buildings in Effingham.

SBL had hoped to start construction by October, but St. Anthony's objection is likely to delay that by at least a couple months, according to SBL President and CEO Jerry Esker.

"I am a little disappointed and surprised that anyone is resisting a $35 million project coming into the community and the jobs that creates," Esker said.

"We are not opposed to them replacing their building," countered St. Anthony's President and CEO Theresa Rutherford. "We all know what it's like to have older facilities that you need to replace in order to keep a modern structure and site. But we believe that building is way too large, that it's a much more expansive building than they seem to need. And we also have questions about the redundancy of services."

The objection filed by St. Anthony's cites the example of scans that SBL is proposing.

"It would appear that the applicant plans to redirect patient volume from HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital for both CT Scan and Ultrasound," says the objection. "As required by the Review Board's rules, the applicant should be required to submit physician referral letters for these services in order for the Review Board and the community to assess the impact of this proposed project on existing care providers."

The review board has scheduled a Sept. 2 public hearing at the Thelma Keller Convention Center, according to Esker.

Esker said adding CT scans to the Bonutti site is, "Simply to round out the full scope of imaging services. This is a convenience issue for the patients who already go to Bonutti Clinic, already see those providers there, already go to our walk-in clinic and go to our primary care physicians. It's a patient convenience issue for CT. Everything else is already being offered by Sarah Bush Lincoln in Effingham and has been for quite some time."

Rutherford said that taking business away from St. Anthony's threatens the hospital's ability to provide an array of services and contributions to the community.

"We provide services to this community ... things like a 24/7, 365 days per year emergency room," she said. "We provided last year alone over $11 million in community benefit back to the community. We want to be able to continue to do that. We also want to assure our colleagues can continue to have work moving forward and that we can continue to support people who are already employed within our community."

"There are many programs that we support within this community that come because of the business we are able to do ... nity and surrounding areas," Rutherford added. "Like the support we give to Crisis Nursery. The work we do with Catholic Charities around medication assistance. Our work with the food pantries. The general voucher program where people are able to get their dental care done when they maybe can't afford it on their own."

"We're consolidating space," Esker said. "One of their issues is that the building's large. Well, the truth is we're growing at a pretty rapid pace in Effingham and we need to accommodate that growth. What this does is provide opportunities for us to continue to grow that service and have a significant impact on the Effingham economy.

"Dr. Bonutti himself draws the large majority of his patients from all around the state and actually multiple states. Those people come to Effingham for their appointments. They stay in hotels, they eat in area restaurants. We want to have a building that showcases Effingham and showcases the services we provide there."

Rutherford said there is room for both providers.

"We believe we can both continue to be productive and contribute to this community," Rutherford said. "We just have questions about the size and redundancy of services."

Effingham Daily News Editor **Jeff Long** can be reached at jeff.long@effinghamdailynews.com or 217-347-7151 ext. 129.

Here is a rendition of what SBL Bonutti Clinic will look like when finished. Construction could begin as early October.

'lans to rebuild SBL Bonutti Clinic

ırah Bush Lincoln submitted a certificate of need application the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to l an expanded replacement building for the SBL Bonutti Clinic ffingham.

Ve're pleased to further invest in Effingham with this long-term mitment to provide excellent medical care," SBL President and) Jerry Esker said. "We are honored to receive such a warm wel- e over the more than a dozen years we have provided care here."

all, Sarah Bush Lincoln employs 354 residents of Effingham ıty.

ıe proposed project is a $35 million replacement building for leteriorating SBL Bonutti Clinic at 1303 Evergreen Street in ıgham. The 65,400-square-foot building will accommodate ces, which are currently in Sarah Bush Lincoln buildings in ıgham.

ıe two-story building will house the established practices of:

ix orthopedists and four of the orthopedic advanced practice iders (Joseph Ajdinovich, MD, Peter Bonutti, MD, Michael ıffe, MD, Kayla Deters, APRN, Stacia Fallert, APRN, Timothy ', MD, Frank Lee, MD, Didi Omiyi, MD, Nick Williams, PA-C, Tom Williams, PA-C)

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•Interventional Pain Management practice (Brian Ogan, MD)

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•Rehabilitation Services including physical and occupational medicine with a rehab pool; and speech therapy

•Diagnostic imaging including general radiology, CT, MRI and ultrasound; clinical laboratory services

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The modern building will be finished with brick, stone and met als. The interior will feature a large tiled foyer and area to display a from the Effingham County Art Guild.

The project will be paid for with the sale of bonds.

Construction could begin as early as October once a Certificat of Need permit is received.

SBL Bonutti Clinic just waiting on state permit for $35M building

Our View: We're listening as SBL and St. Anthony's make their cases for and against Bonutti Clinic project

Effingham Daily News Events

See All Events + Add your event

Thu, Aug 27 Sat, Aug 29 Sat, Aug 29 Sun, Aug 30 Sun

Effingham Public Library Events
Effingham, IL

Effingham Farmers Market
Effingham, IL

Food Truck Saturdays
Tuscan Hills Winery

Sunday Night Live, Chat with a Minister
www.CofChrist.org/Sunda...

Prai wor
Com

THU 27 FRI 28 SAT 29 SUN 30 MON 31 TUE 1 WED 2 THU 3 FRI 4 SAT 5 SUN 6 MON 7 TUE 8

https://www.effinghamdailynews.com/opinion/editorials/our-view-were-listening-as-sbl-and-st-anthonys-make-their-cases-for-and-against/article_63035dec-e893-11ea-863d-37848a0c1a33.html

EDITOR'S PICK

Our View: We're listening as SBL and St. Anthony's make their cases for and against Bonutti Clinic project

Aug 27, 2020

We welcome more detailed comments from HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital during a public hearing next week about its objections to the scope of a $35 million project by Sarah Bush Lincoln to rebuild a more expansive Bonutti Clinic in Effingham.

At first glance, though, we're hard-pressed to find fault with any organization that wants to spend that kind of money improving health services in our community.

SBL has submitted a "certificate of need" application with the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board for a project that would replace the aging clinic at 1303 Evergreen St. with a 65,400-square-foot building that it said will accommodate services now housed in SBL buildings in Effingham.

To be clear: St. Anthony's isn't trying to stop the entire project. Officials there are just concerned about the addition of services St. Anthony's already provides.

"We are not opposed to them replacing their building," said St. Anthony's President and CEO Theresa Rutherford. "We all know what it's like to have older facilities that you need to replace in order to keep a modern structure and site. But we believe that building is way too large, that it's a much more expansive building than they seem to need. And we also have questions about the redundancy of services."

The objection filed by St. Anthony's cites the example of CT scans that SBL is proposing be housed in the clinic. Rutherford told the Effingham Daily News that her hospital depends on income from things such as CT scans to help fund other services that it provides in the community.

"Like the support we give to Crisis Nursery," she said. "The work we do with Catholic Charities around medication assistance. Our work with the food pantries. The general voucher program where people are able to get their dental care done when they maybe can't afford it on their own."

Those are all worthwhile endeavors, and we're glad to see our local hospital involved in them. We hope it continues that support.

But what of the investment that SBL wants to make in our community? That surely has merit, too. And a little competition can be a good thing for consumers.

"I am a little disappointed and surprised that anyone is resisting a $35 million project coming into the community and the jobs that creates," SBL President and CEO Jerry Esker told the EDN when asked about St. Anthony's objection.

We note that HSHS Medical Group and Prairie Cardiovascular announced in June the opening of a state-of-the-art clinic in Mattoon at 101 Coles Centre Parkway. That's just down the road from the main campus of Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center.

"I'm looking out my window at a brand new multimillion dollar building that HSHS St. Anthony just built a mile from Sarah Bush," Esker told the EDN. "... There's a multimillion dollar new cardiology center, a full imaging center with family medicine doctors in there. That's a brand new service."

"We are excited to bring patient-first primary and specialty care to the Mattoon community," HSHS Medical Group Chief Executive Officer Melinda Clark said in that June press release. "Our partnership with Prairie Cardiovascular and St. Anthony's makes this a one-stop shop for primary care with ongoing growth in specialty care as well."

So, we'll be listening as St. Anthony's and SBL make their cases regarding the Bonutti Clinic.

The review board has scheduled a public hearing at the Thelma Keller Convention Center from noon to 2 p.m. on Sept. 2.

MORE INFORMATION

979 XFM
August 24 at 12:08 PM

HSHS Health Systems is requesting a public hearing concerning the construction of a new facility for Sarah Bush Lincoln in Effingham, one that St. Anthony's Hospital Administrator says would offer redundant services to those already provided by HSHS.

THEXRADIO.COM
HSHS St. Anthony's Requests Public Hearing on SBLHS Plans for Effingham Project - Effingham's News and...

Sara Beyers and 52 others 115 Comments 16 Shares

Comments from 979 XFM post that appeared on 8/24/20

Sarah Dhom
As cramped for space as they already are in their current building, I would think 2.25 times the size in a new building would definitely make sense.

Like · Reply · 3d

Deana Cushman-Finks
But it's okay that they built a Heart Center just down from SBLHS?! Ever heard of two supermarkets being in the same town. It's called options. We should have the right to choose where we want to receive healthcare.

Like · Reply · 3d 9

Paul Hecht
Last time I checked, its a free market, so any business can come in and provide a service. Multiple hotels, restaurants, car dealerships, etc. Why not have the ability to choose medical care.

Like · Reply · 3d 16

Top Fan
Amber Dawn
I actually moved my family's services into the SBL facilities years ago and I have loved the care each of us receive through them we actually don't even have to travel to see them anymore since we can in Effingham now.

Like · Reply · 3d

Theresa J Graves
SBL offers services that HSHS refuses to provide.

Like · Reply · 3d · 7

Christine Duncan
Isn't SBL just putting all their services that are already in Effingham under one roof? Hmmm so what is wrong with that? Better for patients

Like · Reply · 3d · 16

Top Fan
Kellen Reece
I mean who likes options...

Like · Reply · 3d · 1

Ron Lading
HSHS built a new clinic next to SBL in Mattoon but now are crying foul when the situation is reversed. I don't think they have a leg to stand on. It appears that St A has only concentrated on buying up adjacent properties for the past five years and building new buildings instead of concentrating on the best patient care that they could provide.

Like · Reply · 3d · Edited · 13

Jamie Hillis
I love SBL! That's why we go to the SBL walk in here in effingham now!

Like · Reply · 3d · 4

Sarah Dhom
As cramped for space as they already are in their current building, I would think 2.25 times the size in a new building would definitely make sense.

Like · Reply · 3d

Effingham Daily News · 16h

We welcome more detailed comments from HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital during a public hearing next week about its objections to the scope of a $35 million project by Sarah Bush Lincoln to rebuild a more expansive Bonutti Clinic in Effingham.

The edn

EFFINGHAMDAILYNEWS.COM

Our View: We're listening as SBL and St. Anthony's make their cases for and against Bonutti Clinic project

6 21 Comments 3 Shares

Comments from the Effingham Daily News Post on 8/27/20

Top Fan

Matt Warner

The public wins when there are duplicate medical services in a community.

Many individuals' insurance only allows them to see certain doctors affiliated with certain hospitals (AKA in network). If they have no one in network, they incur large medical... **See More**

Like · Reply · 14h 13

Gary Davis

Matt Warner , right up until the bigger dog takes all the business and shuts the other down and then monopolizes the community once again. Something happened then Bonutti left its association with HSHS and joined SBL. Now, it's looking like they are jo... **See More**

Like · Reply · 11h

Deb Thorne Haarmann

Gary Davis HSHS had their chance to buy the Bonutti Clinic and didn't do it, so SBL did. There's no "joining forces" going on.

Like · Reply · 10h 4

Cyndi Turner
SBL should be allowed to continue with their project

Like · Reply · 15h 7

Beth Karnes
It's called competition. Saying SBL shouldn't be in town is like saying we should only have one bank or one fast food restaurant.

Like · Reply · 15h 10

Kevin Borntreger
Greg Sapp interviewed Jerry Esker and he made it abundantly clear that the only service being added that isn't currently already in any SBLHS Effingham locations is CT. I'd say CT is pretty essential to any orthopedic practice. HSHS needs to sit back and do better so folks choose them over SBLHS if they want to survive as a hospital system.

Like · Reply · 15h 24

↳ 5 Replies

Cheryl Sharp Brian
Kevin Borntreger you are correct Kevin. We have 8 doctors and 6 of them are Surgeons, Acute Care and pain management, 2 physician assistants and 3 Nurse Practioners. Not to mention Occupational and Physical therapy are just as cramped as the rest of us are..We are out of room. Not sure what the size.of the building has to do with anything. They just built a large building on Rt 16 down the road from SBL and we didn't through a tantrum to try and stop them..

Like · **Reply** · 14h · Edited 2

Heather McDaniel
Cheryl Sharp Brian therapy is busting at the seams too

Like · **Reply** · 13h 3

Sarah Bush Lincoln
August 6 at 7:00 PM

Sarah Bush Lincoln submitted a certificate of need application with the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to build an expanded replacement building for the SBL Bonutti Clinic in Effingham.

"We're pleased to further invest in Effingham with this long-term commitment to provide excellent medical care," SBL President and CEO Jerry Esker said. "We are honored to receive such a warm welcome over the more than dozen years we have provided care here." In all, Sar... See More

26,434
People Reached

4,734
Engagements

Boost Post

281

28 Comments 148 Shares

Comments from the SBL page, posted on 8/6/20

Keith Hartman
So exciting! Will really highlight Effingham when travelers get off interstate! Impressive.

Like · Reply · Message · 3w

2

Elizabeth Cutright
Very Fortunate, Effingham, Illinois!
Like · Reply · Message · 2w 1

Andrea Weinstock Hartke
Amazing!!! It will be fantastic!
Like · Reply · Message · 3w 1

Breana Worman
Woohoo! That looks amazing! Can't wait!
Like · Reply · Message · 3w 1

Debbie Carruthers
So Bonutti Clinic is getting a new building
Like · Reply · Message · 3w 1

Angie McCullough
Only the best ! 1
Like · Reply · Message · 3w

Jamie Lynn
This is going to be amazing!
Like · Reply · Message · 3w 1

Kayla Ochs
How exciting! 1
Like · Reply · Message · 3w

Effingham Daily News
August 25 at 9:27 AM

HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital has filed an objection with the state board that is reviewing Sarah Bush Lincoln's plan for a new $35 million Bonutti Clinic, saying the facility would duplicate services already performed at the hospital.

EFFINGHAMDAILYNEWS.COM

St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital objects to scope of $35M SBL Bonutti project

HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital has filed an objection with the state board that is re...

42 53 Comments 24 Shares

Like Comment Share

Comments from the EDN Facebook post on 8/25/20

Most Relevant

Write a comment...

Top Fan

Brenda Beckler Avery

Dr. Lee from Bonutti Clinic has done a number of Emergency Surgeries on me the last several years. The staff are excellent and have treated me with great respect and patience. I wish for them the best!

Like Reply 3d 4

Juliana Martin

Brenda Beckler Avery

Dr. Omiyi ... same!

Like Reply 3d 3

Cheryl Sharp Brian

Dr. Lee did my Rotator Cuff/Biceps Repair , Carpal Tunnel Release, Trigger Finger Relaese, thumb injections, Dr. Gray did my first knee replacement 20 years ago and Dr. Bonutti did the revision of it 2019, Physical therapy is awesome. They know exactly how the surgeons are wanting the rehab done, etc

I think I'm falling apart. Lol.

Like Reply 2d

Allison Meyer
Well guess what, Sarah Bush owns that property and I'm pretty sure that means they can put as big a building as they want on it 🤦 my neighbors wouldn't get to complain if I decided to build and mansion and live in it by myself! Also, Bonutti clinic already offers all those services except CT scan, so they can't say that it's just now a concern.

Like Reply 1d

Cheryl Sharp Brian
But the choices have been here for 30 years. Services are the same just in a new building. They had their chance several times to by Bonutti Clinic. They screwed up and they know it. Now they gotta deal with it

Like Reply 2d 4

Brad Horton
I can't believe how crowded everything is. These places, and retail places once served much lighter populations. Remember when everything wasn't so crowded? And now they act like if we aren't packed in like livestock they can't make money. Lol!

Like Reply 2d 2

Theresa Zerrusen
I hope they build it, we need a better hospital here!

Like Reply 2d 6

↪ 1 Reply

Jess Workman
Probably afraid that the majority of the people would choose the services offered at SBL over HSHS. I mean, I would. 🤦‍♀️

Like · Reply · 3d · 15

Top Fan
Valerie G Brown
Jess Workman same!

Like · Reply · 3d

Top Fan
Amber Dawn
Jess Workman I have for the last 12 years and I'm excited that I can stay in Effingham for my kids now and I can labs done in Effingham anything else Sarah Bush brings in would be awesome IMO

Like · Reply · 2d · 3

Top Fan
Preston Gilpin
Jess Workman st Anthony is a bandaid station

Like · Reply · 2d

Write a reply...

Hali Griffith
I would absolutely choose SBL of St.Anthony any friggin day!

Like · Reply · 2d · 4

Maleia Croy
Hali Griffith I agree 💯

Like · Reply · 2d · 1

Mary Flack
Did I miss something?
I don't understand why creating choices is a bad thing?

Like · Reply · 2d

Travis Cooper
Why does HSHS care? From what I've heard they've cut staff and basically making themselves so they have to be sold anyway.

Like · Reply · 3d · Edited

13

Top Fan
Preston Gilpin
St. Anthonys is nothing but a band aid station anyway.

Like · Reply · 2d

Judy Petard
LoL a little competition never hurt anyone !!! Look how the city has played with Meijer!!!

Like · Reply · 2d

1

Ken Wright
Free Market enterprise!!

Like · Reply · 3d

4

Ed Tacker
St. Anthony better get over it .

Like · Reply · 2d

2

Testimony of Scott Wilson
To the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
September 2, 2020

Speaker
Scott Wilson

Affiliation
Immediate Past Chairperson, Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center Board of Director

Testimony
Good afternoon. I am Scott Wilson, Immediate Past President Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center Board of Director, Mattoon, Illinois

My remarks summarize the written testimony that I am submitting today.

Trust is important in life, particularly when it involves your healthcare. You want to trust your doctor to treat your illness appropriately, and you trust that the staff to treat you with care and compassion. You trust that your health information remains confidential.

Sarah Bush Lincoln's leadership has earned the community's trust through its words that are supported by its actions. This hospital is deeply committed to creating access to care for its community. Recently, replacement plans were unveiled for an aging medical office building in Effingham – the Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Clinic. I support the Effingham Medical Office Building #20-030. As the immediate past chairperson of the Sarah Bush Lincoln Board of Directors, I assure you that it is just a replacement building! It is large enough to accommodate 17 medical staff members in six busy practices, as well as ancillary services.

I can also assure you that there was never a discussion, a mention, or a thought that Sarah Bush Lincoln would convert the new medical office building into a micro-hospital or a surgery center, as some have suggested. The building is not appropriately designed to accommodate surgical procedures, and the Illinois Department of Public Health would never approve the building design for this use. I am well acquainted with many of the Sarah Bush Lincoln leaders and I can say without reservation that their word is their bond! They are the epitome of integrity, and that is the foundation of their decision making.

Our board is a steward of the organization. Over the years, I have come to appreciate the complexity of healthcare. I have witnessed my fellow board members wrestle with tough decisions at every turn: *Should we enter a service line? Should we build a new facility? Should we partner with another organization?*

Sarah Bush Lincoln has a long history of making thoughtful decisions because its staff members mine data, develop long-term projections and make fact-based decisions that serve the community-at-large well. SBL does this to achieve its mission: to provide excellent care for all and create healthy communities. This means that no one is ever turned away for an inability to pay for care.

At 43 years old, Sarah Bush Lincoln is a financially strong organization with an A+ rating from S & P Global Ratings and is ranked in the top 6 percent of hospitals in the nation for quality and safety. It has earned the designation of Top Rural Hospital by The Leapfrog Group. Sarah Bush Lincoln is a trusted source of care in the region destined for an even greater impact.

I urge you to approve the Certificate of Need for the Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Clinic - Effingham Medical Office Building #20-030. Thank you for your time.

Testimony of Tom Grunloh
To the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
September 2, 2020

Speaker
Tom Grunloh

Affiliation
President, Grunloh Construction

Testimony
Good afternoon. I am Tom Grunloh, President of Grunloh Construction of Effingham, Illinois.

My remarks summarize the written testimony that I am submitting today.

As the owner of a local construction company, I am pleased to welcome proposed Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Clinic (Effingham Medical Office Building #20-030) to Effingham.

My company has been involved with many large projects, so I know firsthand the immediate impact this will have on our community. The math is pretty simple. Every construction job creates 1.6 downstream jobs. For the Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Clinic, that translates to about 160 new jobs in our community of 12,339. Sarah Bush Lincoln has a history of doing business with local companies whenever possible, and I am certain this project will be no different.

I know some have concerns about competition and/saturation. I am here to tell you that competition is good for a community. I see it every day in my line of work. It creates efficiency and excellence. It makes products better. It makes services better. It makes companies better. Competition is good!

Sarah Bush Lincoln has shown itself to be a true community partner in so many ways *for decades*. A program that is particularly important to me, and to which I have made a substantial donation, is SBL Dental Services. It provides necessary dental care to children on a state-of-the-art bus that visits schools throughout the region, including Effingham. Kids get the care they need and get back to school, free of pain and worry.

I support SBL programs like SBL Dental Service because SBL supports the community. I strongly encourage you to approve the Effingham Medical Office Building #20-030. We need this project, these jobs and this state-of-the art medical center in Effingham.

Public Comment in Opposition
To CON Project #20-030 – Effingham Medical Office Building

Good afternoon, and thank you to the Review Board staff for being here today. I speak in opposition to CON Project #20-030 as currently proposed.

My name is John Kingery. I am the founder of one of Effingham's largest employers, Kingery Printing Company, and am deeply committed to and involved in my local community.

My wife and I started Kingery Printing 52 years ago in a small, rented building on the courthouse square in Effingham. Over the years our business grew, requiring a succession of moves to ever-larger spaces in Effingham. In 1984, we finally built our own facility on 10 acres of land just outside Effingham, and it now spans over 125,000 square feet.

Throughout those many years, and with a deep sense of gratitude for all this community has done for our business, I have donated both time and resources to many civic and charitable organizations in and around Effingham. Years ago, I served as a volunteer board member of HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital.

I well understand the Effingham area, the healthcare needs of its people, and what our Sole Community Hospital means to this community.

St. Anthony's is the largest employer in Effingham County. It provides all essential hospital services, including an emergency room that never closes, even when they don't pay for themselves. St. Anthony's serves

everyone, including those who cannot pay for services. St. Anthony's supports our local schools, our park district, and our police and fire departments with a wide range of medical services. Many social services organizations in the greater Effingham area are supported by St. Anthony's.

In short, our 144-year-old hospital is foundationally important to virtually every aspect of life in Effingham. It is a precious asset worthy of preservation.

Folks around here witnessed the harsh impacts of COVID-19 on our hospital, which led to unavoidable layoffs. The always-fragile foundation of rural healthcare has never required more care and attention than now.

The proposed new services in this CON application, as well as the oversized replacement building, are simply not in the best interest of our community.

Please do not allow an unnecessary duplication of existing and presently-underutilized hospital services. Please do not redirect patient volume and revenue away from a hospital that requires those resources to support essential services, jobs and community involvement. Please "right-size" this project.

We can and should do better. A win-win solution is certainly possible consistent with the Review Board's regulations. To that end, it would help everyone to have complete, clear and consistent information from the applicant.

Thank you.

Testimony of Jerry Esker
To the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
September 2, 2020

Speaker
Jerry Esker

Affiliation
President & CEO, Sarah Bush Lincoln

Testimony
Good afternoon. I am Jerry Esker, President & CEO of Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center in Mattoon, Illinois.

My remarks summarize the written testimony that I am submitting today.

Sarah Bush Lincoln has been drawn into a public debate with a large Springfield company that owns 100 percent of the hospital in Effingham. I would like to make this point clear to the residents of Effingham and the surrounding area. SBL wants *no* part of this divisive conflict. Because the HSHS Corporation requested a public hearing, engaged lobbyists and consultants, went to the media, reached out to legislators and city officials, unsuccessfully tried to involve the Illinois Hospital Association in support of its attempt to block our construction … because of these things, we have been forced to respond in this public forum.

This is a difficult day for me. I was born in the Effingham hospital, as was my wife and all of our many siblings. My parents and my own four siblings and their families still live here, as do many in my wife's family. All of them, along with several lifelong friends and their families, live within the city limits of Effingham or just outside. I remember skating at the local rink as a kid … a 50-year-old building that was converted to a clothing store and then later to the Bonutti Clinic. Yes, the same Bonutti Clinic building that we are now replacing.

I have expressed disappointment and surprise …. surprise because we have been told that it is highly unusual for a hospital to oppose the construction of a replacement doctor's office. And disappointment because there are efforts to block a project that will bring so much good to the greater Effingham area. This project involves millions of dollars in new construction, a beautiful building sitting right at the intersection of two of our country's largest interstates … the Crossroads of America! It is a building that will house the nationally recognized Bonutti Orthopedic Clinic and serve as a symbol for all of the high quality care that is delivered inside. We asked the architects (including an Effingham firm) to design a building that reflects the pride and entrepreneurial spirit of the community. I think you will agree that they delivered.

HSHS continues to tell the community it does not object to a new building. It just has questions about the size and redundancy of services. Assuming the questions are genuine, I

am happy to provide the answers. The additional space is required to house our EXISTING services. The floor plan is clear. Every square foot is accounted for. There is no shell space. It would be cost prohibitive to convert the new space into surgery suites or a micro-hospital as some have suggested. Regarding redundancy, we have been performing these services in the community for many years. That will not change, regardless of the outcome of this hearing. I need to be clear about that. The services we offer will not change. Blocking the construction of this building will serve no purpose other than to inconvenience our patients and deprive this community of a boost to economic development.

The HSHS Corporation in Springfield is a Goliath. Publicly available information released in 2018 in a system report shows a balance of $128 million in cash or cash equivalents and $1.5 billion in assets set aside by its Board of Directors to use at its discretion. Replacement of the outdated Bonutti Clinic with a larger office building will not place the local hospital at risk of closing its Emergency Department. It is not reasonable to even suggest that. If the local ER closes, it is because the corporate owner in Springfield has decided that emergency services in Effingham do not merit the expenditure. So many of the people I love, including my parents and all my siblings, live less than 10 minutes from the hospital emergency room. If I thought there was even a remote possibility of this project putting emergency services at risk, I wouldn't be standing here.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention that HSHS just spent millions of dollars on a new building within a mile of Sarah Bush Lincoln and immediately adjacent to yet a third healthcare provider … a building that houses services that HSHS has never offered in the Mattoon/Charleston community. All of the services in this new building are already being offered by others. And then consider that the HSHS Corporation in Springfield terminated many employees at the local hospital, some with decades of service, within weeks of the opening of the new building in Mattoon. I think that puts some perspective on this issue.

My integrity is important to me. I care deeply what my family and friends in Effingham think of my actions. SBL is here to do good, to bring our brand of high quality healthcare, to re-invest our margins directly back into the community. To make the Effingham area better, stronger, healthier … not to do harm. I strongly urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve the Effingham Medical Office Building project #20-030.

Testimony of Peter Bonutti, MD
To the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
September 2, 2020

Speaker
Peter Bonutti, MD (read into the record by Nick Williams, PA-C)

Affiliation
Orthopedic Surgeon, Sarah Bush Lincoln

Testimony
Good afternoon. I am Nick Williams reading remarks prepared by Peter Bonutti, Orthopedic Surgeon at Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Clinic.

My remarks summarize the written testimony that I am submitting today.

I am Peter Bonutti and it is my name on the building and the practice. I am an orthopedic surgeon and for the past 30 years, I have done everything in my power to provide excellent and cutting-edge care to my patients. Despite offers to practice at prestigious institutions like Stanford, Emery, and University of Florida among others, I chose to practice in Effingham, Illinois bringing the newest orthopedic care to my patients. Patients have traveled from 41 states and six countries to the Bonutti Clinic for their care. We see patients on a daily basis who travel hundreds of miles to our clinic. This has required us to build a multidisciplinary facility which will encompass all clinical and diagnostic services under one roof; therefore allowing patients to have access to all services in the same day. This consolidation of services enhances not only the quality, but the cost efficiency of the patient's care.

Despite exclusive work for more than 25 years with St. Anthony's Hospital, it became clear that St. Anthony's / HSHS was not willing to adequately invest in our practice and a much needed new facility.

Three years ago, Jerry Esker, the Sarah Bush Lincoln President & CEO, and I talked about advancing orthopedics and the quality of care. After understanding Jerry and Sarah Bush Lincoln's commitment for improving and investing in the quality of care for our patients, not only I, but the entire group of providers and staff all chose to partner with SBL. After five years of attempting to negotiate a partnership with HSHS, we realized they would not make the investment in a quality facility. Instead, HSHS demanded I travel to numerous facilities up to and including the metro St. Louis area and provide orthopedic and surgical care there, rather than keeping it in our Effingham community. This would have meant spending a substantial amount of time and business outside of the Effingham area. (Breeze, Greenville and O'Fallon). This would have taken surgeries and revenue away from Effingham.

Our partnership allows me to focus on patient care while continuing my research and development. We have published more than 100 papers, have more than 400 patents, and in excess of 700 licenses for medical products. This also allows me to continue to bring cutting-

edge technology to Central Illinois. I share this information simply because the accumulation of clinical practice, clinical research, and medical product development has brought Effingham both national and international notoriety.

Sarah Bush Lincoln's reinvestment in the local community is what earned my trust and convinced me to partner with it three years ago. With the substantial investment Sarah Bush Lincoln is making in this new facility, it has shown 100 percent reinvestment in the local community. This is essential for providing quality of care and will serve our community for decades to come. My partners, to this date, still cover ER orthopedic call at HSHS St. Anthony's hospital which is a valuable service to the community.

Sarah Bush Lincoln focuses on quality and safety for its patients. It is the recipient of the Top Rural Hospital, and a grade of 'A' from the prestigious Leapfrog Group, a nationally recognized group that measures quality and safety. These recognitions placed Sarah Bush Lincoln in the top 6 percent of hospitals nationwide!

Community members have embraced us by giving us many awards throughout the years. This year, I was presented the "Vocational Excellence Award" from the Effingham Noon Rotary group by the former Mayor of Effingham, Mr. Jeff Bloemker. Therefore, showing the Effingham community continues to support us and has always trusted us with their care.

During my 30 years of contributing to the local economy, by attracting patients from around the United States, employing approximately 200 individuals at the clinic and research facility, attracting CEOs and corporate executives to Effingham to evaluate and license technology, I have never asked nor have received any financial incentives from the city. Sarah Bush is providing all capital to build a first- rate medical building.

Even HSHS agrees the Bonutti Clinic needs to be replaced. Our current structure is 50+ years old and is not able to accommodate growth. This certificate of need application spells out specifically why the space is needed and how it will be used.

The clinic we are asking to build is a high quality building that will combine several Effingham medical practices into one location, and streamline services, and create efficiencies and comfort for all our patients. It is amazing that Sarah Bush Lincoln is willing to invest $35 million into a state-of-the-art building for our community. This new facility is its long-term commitment to providing jobs, and quality of care in the Effingham community.

Sarah Bush Lincoln is a dedicated organization with the largest orthopedic group in downstate Illinois that provides specialty services not available through HSHS St. Anthony. The subspecialists at Sarah Bush Lincoln will be using this facility to provide care. Sarah Bush Lincoln continues to grow because of its commitment to reinvest in its communities and helps everyone regardless of payor source. It is exactly why we entered medicine – to help everyone in need, not just those with insurance.

Please accept this letter as an indication of my wholehearted support of Effingham Medical Office Building #20-030. I look forward to an expedited approval of the Certificate of Need as

our aging facility is in urgent need of a new quality building to continue to provide excellent care to our patients.