

April 5, 2011

Dale Galassie, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Project #10-090 (Centegra Hospital – Huntley)

Dear Mr. Galassie:

As an employee of Sherman Hospital I am committed to providing high-quality care to our nearby communities. Sherman Health made a \$325 million investment to improve health care in the region with its replacement hospital. And it's paying off for residents of northern Kane and southern McHenry counties.

I believe that Centegra's proposed Huntley hospital is unnecessary and would burden our already overwhelmed state and federal budgets. And, Centegra would need to charge high rates to cover its expenses. That means people like me – either through higher taxes or higher private insurance rates – would have to pick up the costs.

Here are just a few of the concerns I'd like to raise about Centegra's proposed Huntley hospital:

- A hospital in Huntley would duplicate existing services in the area, which are easily accessible to Huntley. Area providers already have more than adequate capacity to provide more services if they are needed.
- If a new limited service hospital were to be built, it would make all hospitals weaker. The hospital would draw patients from existing hospitals, undermining their long-term plans.
- Centegra has a job to do as the steward of its community's health care dollars and building this hospital would be a big mistake. Centegra should focus on protecting the health care safety net by expanding the subsidized community services it provides, such as cancer screening programs, health education classes, support to FQHCs and mental health outreach services.

I oppose Centegra's plans to build a hospital in Huntley, and I ask you to reject Centegra's CON permit application.

Sincerely,

Theresa Buckel
3818 Olympia Lane
Island Lake, IL 60042
847-526-6223

April 5, 2011

Dale Galassie, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Project #10-089 (Mercy Crystal Lake Hospital & Medical Center – Crystal Lake)

Dear Mr. Galassie:

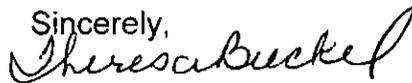
As an employee of Sherman Hospital I am committed to providing high-quality services for our nearby communities. Sherman Health made a \$325 million investment to improve health care in the region with its replacement hospital. And it's paying off for residents of northern Kane and southern McHenry counties.

I believe that Mercy's proposed Crystal Lake hospital is unnecessary. It would create a duplication of services and would burden our already overwhelmed state and federal budgets. And, Mercy would need to increase rates to cover its expenses. That means taxpayers would have to pick up the costs.

Here are just a few of the concerns I'd like to raise about Mercy's proposed Crystal Lake hospital:

- A hospital in Crystal Lake would duplicate existing services in the area, which are easily accessible to Crystal Lake. Area providers already have more than adequate capacity to provide more services if they are needed.
- State data reveal that utilization rates for the surrounding hospitals average between 60 percent and 70 percent. This means that there is a combined total of hundreds of beds available on any given day at the six area hospitals.
- If a new limited service hospital were to be built, it would make all hospitals weaker. The hospital would draw patients from existing hospitals, undermining their long-term plans and making it more difficult to continue to provide free and deeply discounted services to those in need.
- The health care jobs Mercy proposes to create would not be new jobs. The permanent health care jobs would primarily be shifted from existing hospitals, weakening them, and bringing no new services into our community.

I ask the Review Board to reject Mercy's certificate of need application.

Sincerely,

Theresa Buckel
3818 Olympia Lane
Island Lake, IL 60042
847-526-6223