

10-089

Ms. Courtney Avery

Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and services Board

525 W. Jefferson Street – Second Floor

Springfield, IL 62761

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

April 8, 2011

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am the Cuba township supervisor. I oppose the construction of the Mercy hospital in Crystal Lake.

The benefits of this project are limited. Some communities might have a slightly shorter commute to a hospital. The proposed hospital does not bring any new services. I understand that the application is predicated on the stated need for more physicians. However, additional physicians can be brought into the community through additional physician offices, which is a far less costly approach to building a new hospital. In fact, Mercy sponsors a large physician group. I don't understand why Mercy can't just add physicians to the group.

The costs are tremendous. The construction cost is over \$200 M. Half of the cost will be borne by all of us as taxpayers. The other half will be borne by employers paying much of the premium costs as well as individual premium payers.

I understand that the project is being "sold" to the community on the basis of providing jobs. Should we really be making important health care decisions based on providing jobs?

I am also concerned about the cost to our existing hospitals. The application identifies that the Mercy physicians are going to redirect their 4000 annual inpatients to the new hospital, reducing volume at existing hospitals. Taking this significant volume from area hospitals will damage hospitals such as Good Shepherd, Centegra-Woodstock and Centegra-McHenry. With reduced volume, I am concerned that the existing hospitals will not have adequate patient volume to provide high quality cost effective care. Also, the existing area hospitals provide charity care and community benefit services. I wonder how the hospital will be able to fund

the services for indigent and community if the hospitals are operating on only razor thin financial margins due to reduced volumes.

In fact the CON application documents that the Mercy physicians will be taking 2000 inpatients from Centegra-Woodstock, which is already operating at a very low occupancy. Will Centegra-Woodstock be able to survive such a significant volume loss?

In closing, I believe that the cost far outweighs the benefit of building a new hospital in Crystal Lake and the certificate of need should be denied.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Nelson", written in a cursive style.

David Nelson

Supervisor Cuba Township

CC: Senator Dan Duffy

Representative Mark Beaubien