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Medical Arts Associates, Ltd.

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Monday, January 30, 2012

Dale Galassie, Chairman

Illinois Health Facilities Services Review Board

525 W. Jefferson Street Second Floor Springfield, Illinois 62761

Dear Sir,

My name is Rita Ledbetter. I am a certified nurse-midwife, associated with Medical Arts Associates, the largest, and only Illinois based multi-specialty group in the Quad Cities. I have worked here for 17 years. Although I am a nurse-midwife and women's health nurse practitioner my practice involves a large percentage of primary care visits. A large portion of these patients are indigent care or on public aid, and as such, many are mothers who may not have a primary care physician and who are seeing me for the first time. When they need specialty care, I refer them to the local specialists. Please note however that not all specialists in the Quad City area accept public aid patients. Gastroenterology Consultants and Regional SurgiCenter have been unique in this area in accepting such patients for GI care. I am so gratified to able to send women with severe issues such as rectal bleeding, abdominal pain unrelated to gynecologic issues, and irritable bowel syndrome to a group that will see and service them unrelated to their payor source and know they will receive excellent care.

Having a full service multi-specialty surgery center would greatly help the Quad City area since this service is not currently available on the Illinois side of the area. Sending patients to the Iowa side of the Quad City area is not convenient, and the multi-specialty ASC in Iowa does not accept Illinois public aid patients. My patients would do appreciate the convenience of such a facility on the Illinois side.

In my opinion, having no conflict of interest, and primarily concerned with patient care on the Illinois side of the Quad Cities, I wholeheartedly support the application of Regional SurgiCenter for a multi-specialty CON. Not having an multi-specialty ASC on the Illinois side of the Quad City area is creating some disparity both in recruitment of physicians and access for them to this type of center. Currently some specialists who exclusively practice on the Illinois side do not have access to a full service ASC, whereas other specialists practicing on both sides are performing these procedures in Iowa. These include specialists such as ENT, OB-GYN, urologists, and ophthalmologists.

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I have heard from various medical groups that those who have a presence on both sides of the river are able to recruit more specialists into their group due to the ability to partner in Iowa ASCs. I am particularly concerned about losing OB-GYN physicians. I primarily work with due to the income disparity and due to malpractice costs. Having access to a multi-specialty ASC are not only performed more efficiently but can also be of some economic benefit to offset these increased expenses. This may incentivize some of the specialists to remain on the Illinois side. This is a huge issue and we need to do all we can to retain and recruit OB-GYN physicians and nurse-practitioners to Illinois.. The Illinois side of the Quad Cities is also losing insured patients to Iowa and the Iowa ASCs. The Iowa ASCs do not accept Illinois public aid. ASC access is becoming a more important with health care reform and bundled payments since patient care can be done more efficiently and at lower out-of-pocket costs to patients.

I strongly support the implementation of a ASC here in Moline ,Illinois. I urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve the CON permit application for Regional Surgicenter

Sincerely,

Rita Ledbetter MS APN CNM
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