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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

November 1, 2012

Mr. Dale Galassie
Chairman
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

RE: Letter of Opposition, Project # 12-081, Vista Medical Center – Lindenhurst

Dear Mr. Galassie,

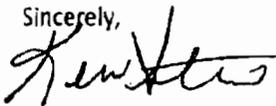
I am writing to **oppose** the new Lindenhurst hospital proposed by Vista Health System. As a resident of Libertyville and someone who is concerned with preserving healthcare quality in Lake County, I believe that it is clear that a new hospital here would jeopardize vital services and programs, harming the existing infrastructure at the expense of new and unneeded project.

Right now, Lake County has six full-service hospitals. The county is also home to Freestanding Emergency Centers, ambulatory surgery centers and medical office buildings, where physicians see patients close to their homes every day. This is a well-served region—with just enough patients to sustain the major hospitals. Adding another full-service hospital represents an unnecessary and irresponsible expenditure of healthcare dollars.

Further, the proposed project wouldn't provide anywhere near the same level of services as Advocate Condell Medical Center in Libertyville. But it would take away patients, which would hurt other hospitals' abilities to provide excellent healthcare for Lake County.

I oppose this project for the citizens of Lake County. We must preserve the critical services and programs that communities deserve. A new and unneeded hospital would upset a fundamental balance, and I ask you to deny it.

Sincerely,



Ken Stemke
613 Brainerd Avenue
Libertyville, IL 60048
630-215-8855

Mr. Dale Galassie
Chairman, Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

RE: Letter of Opposition, Project # 12-081, Vista Medical Center – Lindenhurst

Dear Mr. Galassie,

We are writing to **oppose** the new Lindenhurst hospital proposed by Vista Health System. As 31-year residents of Lake County, we have watched hospital healthcare improve exponentially as population growth has allowed the most central hospital in the area, Advocate Condell, to become a truly superior community health center.

We have witnessed this firsthand with some unfortunate medical events. Where once, Condell would not have been able to treat one of our heart conditions, today they not only can, but do so extremely well. In years past, we drove several miles to Lake Forest Hospital for care, but no longer do so. While Lake Forest is being strengthened by its Northwestern association, Condell, which had seen improvements prior to the Advocate acquisition, is now gaining by Advocate's focus on health outcomes and the organization's desire to be at the forefront of where healthcare is necessarily moving.

More hospital beds is the last thing we need ... and the last thing that will be supported by either the Affordable Care Act or any modifications to this that may occur. The goal of healthcare today is to keep people OUT of hospitals ... just witness Medicare's new payment structure, which penalizes hospitals that readmit patients too soon after discharge. We may not all like what is happening, but the cost of healthcare in our country is making the change unavoidable. Bottom line, we cannot roll back the clock.

Lake County has six full-service hospitals. We are also home to freestanding Emergency Centers, ambulatory surgery centers and medical office buildings, where physicians see patients close to their homes every day. This is a well-served region—with just enough patients to sustain the major hospitals. Adding another full-service hospital represents an unnecessary and irresponsible expenditure of healthcare dollars. I doubt any responsible healthcare review board in the United States could support such a project. Healthcare dollars can – and should – be far better used.

Further, the proposed project wouldn't provide anywhere near the same level of services as Condell in Libertyville, with its trauma capabilities and heart and cancer services. But it would take away patients, which would hurt the abilities of all Lake County hospitals to provide excellent healthcare.

We oppose this project for the citizens of Lake County. We must preserve the critical services and programs that communities deserve. A new and unneeded hospital would upset a fundamental balance, and my husband and I ask you to deny it.

Sincerely,



Richard and Laurie Meyer
847-224-2523