

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

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HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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

Dear Mr. Galassie,

I am writing in **opposition** to Vista Health System's proposal for a new hospital in Lake County. As an area physician, my patients are my number one priority. I am concerned that a new hospital in Lake County is not in their best interests, as it will duplicate existing services, result in an unnecessary increase in patient transfers, and jeopardize quality of care to patients in the area.

No question, healthcare is trending away from inpatient care. Procedures that once required an overnight stay can now be done on an outpatient basis. Ambulatory care centers are the way of the future – particularly in areas like Lake County that already have an excess of inpatient beds.

It is also important to note that Vista's proposed hospital offers only limited services and would not meet specialty care needs. For many high-level health services, patients would have to transfer to another regional facility like Advocate Condell Medical Center in Libertyville. This proposed facility will result in an increase in unnecessary patient transfers.

No one will argue that access to care is critical. However, in time-sensitive medical situations, all county residents are already within 15 minutes of emergency departments. Among those emergency departments is Vista's current Freestanding Emergency Center in Lindenhurst. Plain and simple, Lake County residents are already well-served when it comes to healthcare.

**It is with my patients in mind that I oppose this project.** Not only does it fail to bring new resources to the community, it jeopardizes the high-quality care that residents of Lake County currently enjoy.

Sincerely, *Barbara V. Parilla*

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