14-015

August 7 2014

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Dear Ms. Olson:

I am writing to express opposition to the proposal by Carle Foundation Hospital to expand their medical-surgical facility at its campus in Urbana, Illinois. I am extremely concerned that the approval of this project will severely compromise patient choice in the Champaign-Urbana community and hurt the region's most vulnerable patients who are currently being treated by the mission-driven Presence Covenant Medical Center.

Through its predecessor organizations, Mercy Hospital (founded in 1919) and Burnham City Hospital (founded in 1894), Presence Covenant has a rich legacy of advanced, compassionate care stretching back over a century. Today, Presence Covenant is one of east central Illinois' most advanced medical facilities, with a medical staff of over 250 physicians representing various areas of specialized care. In 2011, the hospital merged with Presence Health, the largest Catholic healthcare system in Illinois. Through this new organization, the hospital is part of an extensive network of hospitals, extended care facilities and clinics dedicated to improving community health care.

I believe it is important for the Champaign-Urbana community to have choices when it comes to making health care decisions. Presence Covenant offers a philosophy of care that is mission-driven, rooted in service to the community and delivering quality health care to the region's most vulnerable citizens.

The fact of the matter is that Carle's proposed expansion – in excess of 158 beds for the planning area – threatens Presence Covenant's very existence in the community. If Presence Covenant was forced to scale back or discontinue its services, it would have a negative effect on the Champaign-Urbana region. Last year alone, Presence Covenant provided $15 million in community benefits to residents which included helping nearly 21,300 people with charity care, unreimbursed services to Medicaid and Medicare, and other vital community services.

The proposal by Carle Foundation Hospital is not necessary for our community and will have a number of negative unintended consequences affecting patient care. I respectfully request that you deny the proposal and allow health care choice to flourish in the Champaign-Urbana region.

Thank you,

Father Tom Royer

Ms. Kathryn Olson
IL Health Facilties & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761
Tel. # 217-782-3516

Regarding the future of Presence Covenant Medical Center:
Re: Carle Foundation Hospital Project 14-015

Anything that poses a threat to the loss of Presence Covenant Medical Center would be a tragedy for the entire community as well as the Catholic/Christian community. Its' mission and the people it serves and employs cannot be duplicated anywhere in the Champaign/Urbana and surrounding communities.

PLEASE DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN!

Deacon Bob Ulbrich

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