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14-043

**RECEIVED**

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HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

August 26, 2014

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62721

Re: Saint Elizabeth's Hospital Belleville, Illinois application for new facility in O'Fallon, Illinois

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to ask that the Review Board reject St. Elizabeth's Hospital application to build a new facility in O'Fallon, Illinois. St. Elizabeth's Hospital is an important part of the Belleville community and the allowing them to construct a new facility in O'Fallon will ultimately lead to less medical services to the residents of Belleville.

Though I do not have any direct evidence of the damage this move could cause to the residents of Belleville, all you have to do is look across the Mississippi River at Barnes-Jewish Hospital's main campus in the City of St. Louis to see the critical function a hospital serves to the community. Thanks to Barnes-Jewish Hospital's commitment to the City of Saint Louis, all residents including those residents of low income have access to excellent hospital care. Had Barnes-Jewish Hospital relocated their main campus to one of the suburbs, where I am sure it would have been less expensive to maintain, many of the citizens of St. Louis would have had their health care choices cut drastically.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital serves a similar role for the residents of Belleville and the communities east and south of Belleville like East St. Louis, Alorton, Centerville, Millstadt, Smithton and Freeburg. Instead of investing its time and energy in leaving the community its serves, St. Elizabeth's Hospital should work hard to provide the residents of Belleville with the excellent healthcare just as Barnes-Jewish Hospital has done with the residents of St. Louis.

Please reject their application for their certificate of need to construct the new facility and preserve the long relationship between the residents of Belleville and St. Elizabeth Hospital.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Christian Andrade