

*Sandra R. Kroenig
408 Blue Ridge Drive
Belleville, Illinois 62223*

September 15, 2014

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

RE: Project Application #14-043

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing in opposition to St. Elizabeth's Hospital vacating the City of Belleville. It is my understanding that the City and many of its residents are quite upset over the whole thing.

I am a born and raised citizen of Belleville. I was born at St. Elizabeth's and so was my husband. All of my family members were hospitalized there over the years, and passed away there. Several of my relatives worked there as well. St. Elizabeth's has been a respected and stable institution in Belleville for more than 100 years, and has enjoyed a steady "business" and loyalty from the citizens of Belleville and the surrounding areas.

One thing I have never understood is the so-called "competition" between St. Elizabeth's and Memorial Hospital. One hospital could have never handled the healthcare needs of this area alone. Either hospital would have had a difficult time without the other.

I truly believe that St. Elizabeth's was perfectly satisfied in Belleville until Memorial decided to build another hospital. Then, that nasty "competition" word got in the way. The big difference is that Memorial has not, and will not, abandon Belleville. I don't understand why St. Elizabeth's believes they need to. I could better tolerate St. Elizabeth's building another hospital, if they would also keep the Belleville location in operation.

Another idea that seems kind of idiotic to me is that St. Elizabeth's plans to build so close to Memorial's new hospital, which makes no sense whatsoever. If they really want to "compete," why don't they find another area further away from Memorial? Unfortunately, there's no tactful way to put this – the whole thing just seems like a totally ignorant and dumb idea.

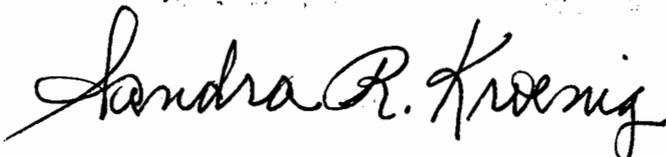
If St. Elizabeth's would follow in Memorial's footsteps by keeping the present hospital in operation with another, or satellite, hospital in another area, that would make 100% more sense. I wish they all would get over the stupid competition idea and just attempt to work together.

Any respect that I had for St. Elizabeth's is quickly dwindling. I definitely will no longer be proud to say I was born there.

I hope that you and the members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board will deny St. Elizabeth's request to build another hospital, especially so close to Memorial, and then abandon Belleville on top of it. I know the woman running St. Elizabeth's probably has no ties to the area, and really doesn't care, but the citizens of Belleville and the immediate surrounding areas certainly do care.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



cc: Mike Constantino, Supervisor, Project Review Section