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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

October 27, 2014

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

RE: Project Application #14-043

Dear Ms. Avery:

As a resident of Smithton, IL, I am writing to express my concerns about the plans for St. Elizabeth's Belleville hospital to relocate from the City of Belleville to the proposed O'Fallon location. I believe this move will adversely impact meeting the health care needs of residents of Belleville and those communities south of Belleville, including Smithton, Hecker, New Athens, Millstadt and Freeburg. My husband, as well as several elderly family members who live in the Smithton area, have major medical needs that often require quick access to medical care. We currently reside approximately 15 miles from St. Elizabeth's. St. Elizabeth's has stated the new location is only seven miles from the current location, but for many residents of Belleville and south of Belleville, this will impact their access to care by more than a half hour. There is no quick way to get to the proposed O'Fallon location. You can sit at one of the major intersections by the proposed site for more than 15 minutes; I know, because I have experienced it. In addition, all the roads to the proposed site are heavily traveled with numerous traffic signals.

St. Elizabeth has stated they are moving to O'Fallon to meet the needs of the O'Fallon area as well as Belleville. Memorial Hospital is building a second hospital in Shiloh to meet the needs of that area; the O'Fallon area does not need two hospitals. Memorial Hospital in west Belleville continues to invest in their current Belleville location, indicating a commitment to the community needs. St. Elizabeth could invest in their current Belleville location and continue to serve the residents of both Belleville and surrounding southern communities. If St. Elizabeth's relocates to the O'Fallon community and vacates the Belleville location, it will certainly impact our access to care, which in my opinion does not support their mission of serving the poor and community.

In addition, if St. Elizabeth's relocates I am concerned that Memorial Hospital in Belleville will have difficulty serving ALL the residents of Belleville and southern communities; that would be a great impact on their volume. Memorial Hospital's Emergency Department is already overcrowded, if St. Elizabeth's closes in Belleville, the additional volume would go to Memorial, thus creating significant capacity issues. Since the Emergency Department is the main point of entry for many hospital admissions, this additional volume will increase the long patient wait to be seen in an efficient manner.

For these reasons I am opposed to St. Elizabeth's proposal to relocate their hospital to the O'Fallon location. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Barb Jany
Smithton, IL

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barb Jany". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "B".

cc: Mr. Mike Constantino