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7112 Gary Drive
Belleville, IL 62223
November 20, 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator, Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: #14-043

I am writing in opposition to St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville receiving a CON to build a new hospital in O'Fallon, IL. However, I would be supportive of St. Elizabeth's building a new hospital in Belleville.

Moving 1200 jobs to O'Fallon will leave a void in downtown Belleville. Businesses and homeowners would be affected by loss of property values. And, last but not least, there is definitely a need for more than one Emergency Department in the Belleville area.

Thank you for your consideration of all of the above.

Respectfully,



Sandra Jaskowiak

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Letter of Opposition – Application #14-043

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

My name is Ann Lintzenich. I live in Freeburg. My mother lived in St. Libory at the time of her health crisis. She experienced a heart attack one evening. If St. Elizabeth's had been any further away or the ambulance had to take her to Memorial, even further away, the outcome might have been worse than it was. This will also make the wait in Memorial's ED even longer and more people will avoid coming to the hospital until it is possibly too late.

I am opposed to St. Elizabeth's building another hospital so far to the East and abandoning the population to the south and the surrounding area. It would be very difficult and/or impossible for many citizens to reach adequate healthcare in a timely manner without St. Elizabeth's located where they presently are.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann Lintzenich". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Ann Lintzenich

November 19, 2014

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

RE: Project #14-043

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing in opposition of St. Elizabeth Hospital's plan to relocate from Belleville to O'Fallon. I am a resident of the Belleville area (Swansea) and have great concerns regarding the negative impact the relocation will have on this community.

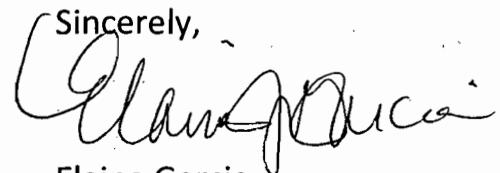
St. Elizabeth's move from this area will greatly limit the emergency services offered in Belleville. Memorial Hospital's Emergency Department does not have the capacity to serve this community's needs. For this reason, it is vital for the city of Belleville to maintain more than one Emergency Department.

Also, we have to consider how this decision is going to affect our underserved and disabled populations, who already have limited means of transportation, limited support, and limited access to medical care. As the mother of a special needs teenager, it is my responsibility to look out for his future in this community. We cannot make decisions that will further complicate access to care for individuals already faced with so many challenges.

Memorial Hospital has already been approved to build another full service hospital in O'Fallon. Allowing St. Elizabeth to build a hospital (less than two miles away from that location) is a duplication of services, which is what the Planning Board exists to prevent.

As a citizen of this community, I am asking that you deny St. Elizabeth Hospital's request to build a new Hospital in O'Fallon.

Sincerely,



Elaina Garcia

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
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Dear CON Board, Project #14-043

I strongly oppose giving St. Elizabeth a certificate of need. I oppose for several reasons.

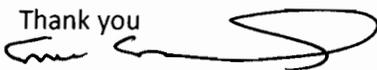
As a resident of Smithton Illinois, St Elizabeth is the closest hospital in the event of an emergency. Lives would be lost in the extra travel time. In addition I am a lifelong resident of the area and have seen what happens when businesses abandon the community. I would support the rebuilding of the current facility in the downtown Belleville area. If they wanted to build in the current location I am sure they would find overwhelming support. The community members who support would still support and those that opposed, as myself would now support.

I was under the assumption that the CON mission was to stop exactly what St. E's is trying to do.

1. They would cause a shortage of medical care in Belleville.
2. One ER in Belleville would not be adequate.
3. This would cause the Memorial East to fail financially.
4. The city and community would never recover.

Please deny the certificate of need for St. Elizabeth's.

Thank you



Maher A. Mahmood

November 18, 2014

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

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

RE: Project Application # 14-04

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing this letter in opposition to the proposed move by St. Elizabeth's Hospital of Belleville to a new proposed site in O'Fallon, Illinois.

There are two major concerns that are presented by the proposed move of St. Elizabeth—the first is the availability of and access to medical care for the people in our communities and the second is the economic impact on the Belleville community. Further, the location of a new St. Elizabeth hospital in O'Fallon would be a duplication of services as this hospital would be located about two miles from the new Memorial Hospital East, which is slated to open in early 2016.

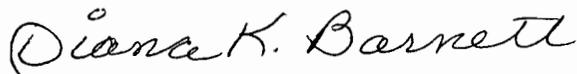
The move from Belleville will significantly impact medically underserved patients with limited transportation and resources to access care. There is no access to public transportation where the new hospital is proposed to be built. Further, the reduction in beds and services will strain the capacity of Memorial Hospital and impact those seeking medical care.

Secondly, the economic impact to the City of Belleville is devastating. We will lose over 1,200 jobs and the taxes associated with that loss of employment. Further, the physician offices located nearby the current St. Elizabeth hospital will logically close and relocate to the O'Fallon area creating further decline. Additionally, employees who work at the hospital and live in our community will consider moving out of the community to be closer to their work location and that will have a negative impact on housing and the overall economic climate in Belleville.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,

Diana K. Barnett
624 Oak Hill Drive
Belleville, IL 62223



CC: Mike Constantino, Supervisor, Project Review Section

NOV 21 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Dear Ms Avery
I am writing regarding Project Application
Number 14-043. I am asking the state to deny
the project.

Bellville needs more than 1 Emergency Facility.
EMS spokespeople have stated that the long travel
time and delay in medical treatment patients would
have to endure, especially from outlying areas, could
be catastrophic if St Elizabeth's in Bellville closes.
Minutes matter in saving lives.

The Bellville area has long supported 2 hospitals
and I dread to think of the impact on Memorial
Hospital if they are the only provider in the area.
The Emergency Room is very busy now.

I have traveled I-64 when there is construction.
Traffic is very backed up so I cannot fathom a
speedy travel time in such conditions. An accident
on the highway would create the same results.

Thank you for allowing me to express my opinions.

Mary Ann Sikavy

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

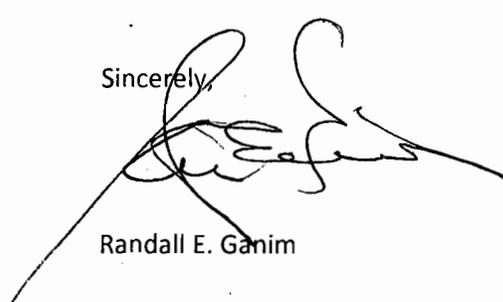
RE: Project application #14-043

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing in opposition to St. Elizabeth's hospital vacating the City of Belleville. The move will impact medically underserved patients and would be destructive to the City of Belleville. I have lived, worked and made Belleville my home for over 50 years. The impact on the businesses and homeowners with the loss of property values, jobs and healthcare that is provided in the community would be devastating. St. Elizabeth's Hospital has been a respected and a stable institution in Belleville for more than a century. This community desperately needs both, Memorial and St. Elizabeth's Hospitals, located and providing services within Belleville. One Hospital does not have the capacity to serve Belleville's needs. If rebuilding is the only option, St. Elizabeth's Hospital relocating within the City of Belleville would make much more sense. The City of Belleville and the people who live here have supported St. Elizabeth's Hospital for more than 100 years through generous financial support as well as the utilization its facilities. I understand the challenges of the changing healthcare environment and that St. Elizabeth's Hospital perceives that it needs to make changes to continue to be able to provide cost effective healthcare in the community, but at the expense of one community to benefit another is not the answer and does not support their mission. I encourage the Planning Board to deny St. Elizabeth's Hospital request.

Thank you for your consideration in the matter.

Sincerely,



Randall E. Ganim

11/19/14

Re: Project Application #14-043

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 &
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Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing in regards to St. Elizabeth's Hospital wanting to build a new hospital in O'Fallon, Illinois. I would like this project to be denied. The Belleville area is highly populated and Memorial Hospital will not be able to accommodate everyone needing care. The St. Elizabeth's facility is located exactly where care is needed and the facility would just need some updating and remodeling instead of abandoning and re-building.

It would make no sense whatsoever to have a second hospital built in the O'Fallon Illinois area. That would over-saturate care in that area and leave the Belleville area lacking.

Please consider denying this request from St. Elizabeth's hospital to leave Belleville and re-build in O'Fallon.

Sincerely,



Micki Classen
11 Cardinal Drive
Belleville, IL 62221
618-531-3329

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

November 18, 2014

Mr. Mike Constantino
Supervisor, Project Review Section
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Reference: Project # 14-043

Dear Mr. Constantino

I'm writing this letter to voice my concerns about St. Elizabeth Hospital's request to move to O'Fallon. I have also proposed a possible solution for the move that provides a Win-Win solution for everyone involved.

St. Elizabeth Hospital and its parent company Hospital Sisters Health System has given two reasons why the hospital needs to move to O'Fallon:

1. The downtown Belleville location is not as easily accessible (one-way streets & parking) as the proposed site off interstate 64.
2. Modernization (Rebuilding or Remodeling) at the current Belleville Hospital site is not cost effective or efficient.

Concerning the cost of rebuilding (\$365M) or remodeling (\$353M) at the current location, these costs are not significantly different (< 18%) from the cost of building a new hospital (\$300M) especially since all of these costs are only estimates that are dependent on the construction requirements as defined by St. Elizabeth Hospital. (The 18% difference is well within the 20% estimating cost error when comparing any two of the hospital cost estimates – typical building cost estimates have a $\pm 10\%$ error.) Also, the new hospital will have half the number of beds as the current hospital (144 vs. 303), which actually makes the new hospital twice as expensive as modernization. Therefore, it's very difficult, if not impossible, to do a realistic comparison of these costs and the assumed cost savings of relocating the hospital.

Obviously the relocation of the hospital to O'Fallon would definitely improve access for patients and emergency services to the new hospital near interstate 64 and get away from Belleville's congested downtown streets. But what about the people that don't have transportation – how do people get medical care without traveling to Memorial or the nearest hospital in O'Fallon, Red Bud and Sparta?

Another concern about the move is there will only be 51 beds (Red Bud with 25 beds & Sparta with 26 beds) to serve the people south and west of the current St. Elizabeth's Hospital while there will be 1,767 beds north of the current location. The surrounding communities to the south and west of Belleville have voiced their opposition to the move for the obvious reason – they are concerned people will not have easy access to medical services they need and will have farther to travel to get the critical emergency-room care when they need it. And obviously being farther away from a hospital could make the difference between life or death in an emergency situation.

In reality, I think St. Elizabeth's wants to move to get away from the poor, unemployed and uninsured people in Belleville that might have problems with paying their bills. I think St. Elizabeth's does not want to deal with people on Medicaid or people that receive subsidies under the Affordable Care Act (subsidies that go away over time) or have to deal with the State of Illinois with its financial problems. I think the bottom-line business concern for St. Elizabeth's Hospital is – they are very concerned that payments made through a third-party payer will not cover the costs of the medical services that they provide.

As far as moving St. Elizabeth's Hospital to O'Fallon, it makes good business sense for St. Elizabeth to move and I would support the move if – and it's a big IF – the medical needs of the people in Belleville were addressed and the people of Belleville had easy access to medical care and services they need without having to go to Memorial Hospital or any other hospital in the Belleville area.

What I propose is that the State of Illinois step-up and be part of this relocation – by establishing a “Medical Clinic” at the current St. Elizabeth Hospital in partnership with St. Elizabeth (and possibly Memorial) and the City of Belleville to provide the critical emergency-room care and personal medical services that the people of Belleville need in their daily lives. The State of Illinois would take ownership of the hospital building and maintain the building for the medical clinic. As far as the doctors, nurses and administrators needed for the clinic, the State of Illinois would establish a “College Tuition-Assistance Program” that would pay for a student's tuition to get these young professionals to work at the clinic for five years after their graduation.

Therefore, the Medical Clinic provides a Win-Win solution for everyone concerned by keeping the medical care and services needed in downtown Belleville and allowing St. Elizabeth's to move to O'Fallon. The Medical Clinic plan can prove to be a good "Business and Community Model" for other cities in Illinois and possibly the nation – by providing medical care to the poor and under-served in urban areas and keeping health-care costs affordable without burdening the middle-class with higher premiums for medical insurance.



Dennis Clapper
115 Papillon Drive
Swansea, IL 62226
(618) 277-6724

Additional Side Comments:

In another way of establishing Medical Clinics in some large urban areas, the Federal Government could get involved using Veteran Administration Hospitals as the Medical Clinics to provide the medical care and services needed by the poor, unemployed and uninsured people.

In a November 14th USA Today newspaper, an article titled "Hospitals: System set up to fail" talks about the 43 Rural Hospitals closed since January 2010. The hospital administrators say federal regulators and state governments created policies and reimbursement rates that make it impossible for rural hospitals to survive. These stand-alone community hospitals are basically funded through government programs – Medicare (44.8%) and Medicaid (14.0%) – because that's how their patients are insured. So my question is – What's a State to do to provide medical care for its residents?

November 19, 2014

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

RE: PROJECT #14-043

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing in opposition to St. Elizabeth's plan to build a hospital in O'Fallon. I live south of Belleville in Red Bud, IL. My uncle recently had a heart attack. They were able to get him to Red Bud Regional Hospital very quickly. They immediately flew him to St. Elizabeth's hospital. He is alive today. Many times the doctors told him that he was very lucky to be alive and that he wouldn't be here with us if it had been a few more minutes.

The rural communities to the south of Belleville depend on St. Elizabeth's. If they close their current hospital in Belleville, they will not go to the O'Fallon St. Elizabeths. It takes an hour to get from Red Bud to O'Fallon. They will go to Memorial and St. Louis and it takes longer to get there.

Please consider these communities and how it will negatively impact them. I urge you to vote NO!

Thank you for your consideration,


Juleen Woosley

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November 19, 2014

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

Re: Project #14-043

Dear Ms. Courtney:

I am opposed to the CON for St Elizabeth Hospital because of the following reasons:

- The O'Fallon site is a duplication of services, located less than 2 miles from Memorial East.
- Moving 1,200 jobs out of the city would leave a void in the core of downtown Belleville
- Belleville needs more than one Emergency Department

Very truly yours,


Michael W. Leopold
Senior Vice President
Huntleigh Securities
618-235-8240

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
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Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Project Application #14-043

Dear Ms. Avery:

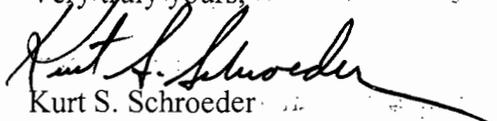
As an attorney who has practiced in downtown Belleville for the past 30 years, I am keenly aware of the negative impact upon the city's economy as a result of car dealerships and other businesses relocating from Belleville to areas along Interstate 64 in O'Fallon. St. Elizabeth's plan to build a new hospital in O'Fallon, close its Belleville hospital, and move 1200 jobs out of Belleville, will undoubtedly have a devastating impact on Belleville's businesses and homeowners.

Aside from the negative impact upon Belleville's economy, I also have the following concerns:

1. St. Elizabeth's proposed site in O'Fallon is less than 2 miles from Memorial Hospital East currently being constructed in Shiloh, and will result in a duplication of services and negatively impact projections for utilization at Memorial's new hospital.
2. The relocation of St. Elizabeth's will strain capacity at Memorial Hospital in Belleville.
3. Patients in communities to the south of Belleville will need to travel further for health care.
4. There will be a negative impact on medically underserved patients with limited transportation and resources to access health care.

For all of the foregoing reasons, I strongly oppose the proposed move of St. Elizabeth's Hospital from Belleville to O'Fallon and request that you deny its application.

Very truly yours,


Kurt S. Schroeder

November 19, 2014
Page 2

cc: Mr. Mike Constantino, Supervisor, Project Review Section
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board