

Kathy Stanley
2204 Caseyville Ave
Swansea, IL 62226

November 20, 2014

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
5625 W. Jefferson St, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Project # 14-043

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing to OPPOSE the CON approval for St. Elizabeth's Hospital to build a new hospital in O'Fallon and close their location in downtown Belleville. If I understand the purpose of the CON committee correctly, it is to review the need for medical services in the area and to evaluate the duplication of services that would arise from the approval of the CON.

There is definitely a need for two full service hospitals in Belleville. If St. Elizabeth's was allowed to close the Belleville location and move, there would be a large population of medically underserved patients with limited resources and access to care. Patients in Belleville need readily available access to more than one Emergency Department.

The proposed new hospital in O'Fallon would be a definite duplication of services since it is planned to be located less than 2 miles from Memorial East, a full service hospital already under construction. The undue competition would negatively affect the success of Memorial East.

The impact of the hospital closing on the City of Belleville would be devastating. Businesses located around the hospital would lose vital customers. Jobs would likely be lost and many businesses might close. Businesses and property owners would be impacted by the loss in property values.

To summarize, the approval of the CON would be bad for patients, bad for Memorial and bad for the City of Belleville. I strongly urge you to reject the CON for St. Elizabeth's.

Sincerely,


Kathy Stanley

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

November 19, 2014

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

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Dear Ms. Avery:

RE: Project #14-043
St. Elizabeth's CON Application to Close Belleville Hospital and Move to Another
Community

I lived in Belleville for 60 years before my husband and I moved 10 miles south to Smithton, but we continue to consider Belleville our home community and retired in this area for a number of reasons, but a prime reason was the medical care the community offered. That is all about to change if St. Elizabeth's is allowed to abandon our community. In the past we received excellent medical care at both hospitals—I delivered our children at St. Elizabeth's and had major surgery there and have been dismayed at the recent decline in the care of that facility. I think they made the decision to abandon Belleville many years ago. We have in recent times received excellent surgical care and ER care at Memorial, but that will change if St. Elizabeth's closes the Belleville hospital. Memorial will not be able to handle all the ER care of this area in a timely fashion; we will be forced to travel to Missouri for medical care, especially ER care as South County St. Louis is closer than O'Fallon and Shiloh

We worry about what will happen to the large area in Belleville that St. Elizabeth's will be abandoning. Recently I had a procedure done at one of the medical office buildings and they are letting it deteriorate; missing tiles on the floor, dirty walls and elevators; makes us think they will move all medical services out of Belleville.

Several years ago St. Elizabeth's built a state-of-the-art care facility in Waterloo, next to the YMCA we use. It is now abandoned; a shame they did not put those dollars in maintaining the Belleville buildings.

I appreciate your concern with the maintaining of community health care in our community. O'Fallon/Shiloh will be well-served by the new Memorial East Hospital. I really think St. Elizabeth's is moving to abandon patients of low income; this does not include us, but will burden us by forcing us to change providers to Missouri.

Sincerely yours,



Phyllis Parrish
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Smithton, IL 62285
618-473-3540