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COUNTIES & TOWNSHIPS  
COMMITTEES:  
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APPROPRIATIONS  
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EDUCATION  
EXECUTIVE  
ENERGY



**EDDIE LEE JACKSON, SR.**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 114<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:  
200-7S STRATTON BUILDING  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706  
217-782-5951  
217-782-8794 FAX

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
4700 STATE STREET  
SUITE 2  
EAST ST. LOUIS, ILLINOIS 62205  
618-875-9950  
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November 24, 2014

**RECEIVED**

NOV 25 2014

**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Board  
525 West Jefferson Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Dear Ms. Avery:

Re: Opposition to Project #14-043

It is my privilege to represent the people of the 114<sup>th</sup> Legislative District in Illinois. I am concerned that St. Elizabeth's attempt to move out of Belleville and into O'Fallon will negatively impair the healthcare delivery system for my constituents in this region. I would like to record my opposition to St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plans to build a replacement hospital in O'Fallon. (Project #14-043).

The residents of my district are well-served by the existing hospital dispersion, which included two quality hospitals in Belleville: Memorial Hospital and St. Elizabeth's Hospital, though I only represent part of Belleville, neighboring rural communities to this south, like Freeburg, Smithton and Millstadt rely on its healthcare resources. Allowing St. Elizabeth's to move from its location of more than 140 years would considerably affect these smaller towns and reduce their access to quality healthcare.

With constituents living in an increasingly diverse district, it's important that I pay close attention to those who are underserved and have fewer resources available to them. Together with my staff, we are constantly looking for opportunities to strengthen the communities in my district. I cannot stand behind a proposal that works against these efforts and abandons the underserved.

After your careful review of St. Elizabeth's application. I am sure you will find its proposal does not adequately meet the needs of the hard working residents in the region.

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eddie Lee Jackson".

Eddie Lee Jackson, Sr.  
State Representative 114<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

ELJ/bj

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NOV 25 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Con-Project

Denise Feld

29 Legacy Drive

Belleville, IL 62221

Re: Opposed to the movement of St. Elizabeth's to O'Fallon, IL

As a lifetime resident of Belleville (53+ years) I am writing to strongly oppose the relocation of St. Elizabeth's Hospital. Both myself and other family members have utilized the services at St. Elizabeth's for many medical services, including the birth of my two children.

As a member of the medical community for 32 years, I am concerned that if St. Elizabeth's was to be relocated that would have a huge impact on emergency services for the population of the east, south east region of both the city of Belleville and the small municipalities surrounding the city and St. Clair County.

Belleville Memorial is a terrific facility; however, I am concerned that it will take on a large financial burden if it were to be the only hospital to serve Belleville and the entire county of St. Clair,

Thank you for considering the concerns of citizens opposed to the relocation of St. Elizabeth's.

Best Wishes,



Denise Feld

November 24, 2014

William R. Casperson, MD, FACS, CPE  
104 Red Fox Road  
Belleville, IL 62223

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

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NOV 25 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

**Re: Letter of Opposition in Regards to Project Application Number (#14-043)**

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing in opposition to project application number (#14-043). My basis for opposition is that moving HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital to its proposed location will result in a clear duplication of services, diminishing access for significant numbers of patients in its present primary service area and will create an undue burden for the present emergency department at Belleville's remaining hospital.

A recurrent theme in the letters of support seen on the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board website is the need for regional access at the proposed O'Fallon site. But that need will already be met by the new Memorial Hospital East. Duplication of services is destructive in that it will drive up cost and result in decreased access at the abandoned location. A better solution might be to further develop the present campus as a healthcare destination, or construct a new facility in a locale more available to residents of Belleville and Southwestern Illinois. The Emergency Department at Memorial Hospital is already functioning above its capacity, and absorbing additional volume from the existing St. Elizabeth service area will be difficult and further stretch access. These options may require a bit more financial investment, but would lead to a greater likelihood of success for not only St. Elizabeth's Hospital, but for our entire medical community.

As a medical professional who has worked in this community for over 25 years, my perspective is that the big picture is more important than any individual wants and desires. St Elizabeth's Hospital could be successful in a new hospital in O'Fallon, but that's not what's best for our medical community. Concentrated and duplicated services will lead to the imbalance of cost and access. I urge the IHFSRB to reject this proposed replacement hospital.

Sincerely,



William R. Casperson, MD, FACS, CPE

November 24, 2014

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Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

NOV 25 2014

525 West Jefferson Street (Second Floor)

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Project # 14-043

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is in opposition to St. Elizabeth's move from Belleville, Illinois to O'Fallon, Illinois.

As St. Elizabeth's Hospital or the system Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) has stated many times, the proposed site for their new hospital is only seven miles from their current site. However, that seven miles is moving from an area of need for access to healthcare to a populated area that will be receiving a hospital that is opening on April 1, 2016 (Memorial Hospital East). The payer mix is much different in these two areas regardless of what HSHS would like for the public and the board to believe. There is not however, a need for two hospitals in that area. There is a need in Belleville for two hospitals as *one* hospital on the west side of town (Memorial Hospital) cannot meet the demand for emergency or inpatient care.

The area that St. Elizabeth's wants to move to is on a road called North Green Mount Road. My family lives directly off Green Mount and it is a very busy and congested road. Now St. Elizabeth's wants to add emergency traffic to that. On a Sunday when the two major churches on Green Mount are releasing, the road is bumper to bumper for several hours. This is also the case many other times throughout the week. When seconds matter in a life threatening event, this traffic could mean life or death for a patient. Also, I can speak from a resident's perspective that we do NOT want St. Elizabeth's traffic added to this chaos. Green Mount was not built to handle the current traffic.

When Memorial planned to build a new hospital in Shiloh, Illinois (only a few miles from St. Elizabeth's proposed site), they announced they would keep their current hospital and build a new additional hospital. This shows their dedication to the residents and community of Belleville that has supported them over the years. St. Elizabeth's plans to leave that community and all its needs and support behind. This is exactly what the CON process should protect Belleville residents from. If this CON is approved, I will personally lose faith in the process or even the need for it in Illinois, as it has not done its job.

Along with Belleville residents, there are residents to the south of Belleville in towns such as Smithton, Freeburg and Hecker that depend on St. Elizabeth's for emergency care. If St. Elizabeth is not present in

downtown Belleville, the residents of those towns will be delayed in accessing healthcare. This is also very true for low income families that live in downtown Belleville that do not have access to transportation.

St. Elizabeth's and HSHS blame the aging building for their need for a new hospital. However, whose fault is it that their building has not been maintained? They only have themselves to blame and they cannot blame it on money as the HSHS system has plenty of money in their coffers. Buildings take maintenance and upkeep throughout the years. Any building will become dilapidated without proper upkeep. Will St. Elizabeth's continue that irresponsible behavior in a new building?

If a new building is needed, then there have been several offers by the City of Belleville to assist St. Elizabeth's in obtaining more land in the current site or a new site in Belleville that will still give the same residents proper access to healthcare. St. Elizabeth's and HSHS have declined those offers and given excuses of why this won't work. It will not work because St. Elizabeth's and HSHS are looking for greener pastures or in this case – better payers.

I strongly encourage the CON review board to decline this application. St. Elizabeth's and HSHS need to go back to the drawing board and come up with a plan that works for everyone including the residents that so badly need them in a location in Belleville.

Sincerely,



Valorie Comley

2748 Lake Lucerne Drive

Belleville, IL 62221

(618) 632-3466

Comley4@sbcglobal.net

November 24, 2014

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NOV 25 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

525 West Jefferson Street (Second Floor)

Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Project # 14-043

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is in **opposition** to St. Elizabeth's move from Belleville, Illinois to O'Fallon, Illinois.

I have been following a lot of the debate in the local paper (Belleville News Democrat) and I feel that I needed to send my thoughts on this very important matter. I have lived in this area all my life and have witnessed many changes throughout the local communities and even with local hospitals.

I understand as communities grow, there may be a need to have additional health care facilities to accommodate the need and provide for the community. And from what I gather the CON process is what is supposed to help determine how to appropriately meet those needs in the state of Illinois and the communities that the hospitals are providing care for. When Memorial hospital addressed this need (in which I believe the board voted in 100% favor for), they decided to build a full service satellite hospital and not abandon the community that they have provided care for many years. St. Elizabeth's plans to leave the Belleville community and all its needs and support behind. This is exactly what the CON process should protect Belleville residents from. If this CON is approved, I will personally lose faith in the process or even the need for it in Illinois, as it has not done its job.

As St. Elizabeth's Hospital or the system Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) has stated many times, the proposed site for their new hospital is only seven miles from their current site. However, those seven miles are moving away from an area of need for access to healthcare to a populated area that will soon be receiving a new hospital (Memorial Hospital East). HSHS states that their new proposed location will have better access but I live in that area – only a few miles away and the traffic is already overwhelming at times which can cause delays in patient care especially if not arriving by an ambulance. The highway access (exit 16), St. Elizabeth's says, will give them better access backs up close to a mile at times even in non-holiday traffic. So "only" seven miles could quite possibly be life or death.

The payer mix is much different in these two areas regardless of what HSHS would like for the public and the board to believe. The household median income differs by approximately \$30,000 per wikipedia between the two cities of O'Fallon and Belleville with O'Fallon being the higher of the two. There is not

however, a need for two hospitals in the O'Fallon area. There is a need in Belleville for two hospitals, as **one** hospital (Memorial Hospital) in a community that already has two hospitals cannot meet the demand for emergency or inpatient care.

Along with Belleville residents, there are residents to the south of Belleville in towns such as Smithton, Freeburg and Hecker that depend on St. Elizabeth's for emergency care. If St. Elizabeth is not present in Belleville, the residents of those towns will be delayed in accessing healthcare. This is also very true for low-income families that live in downtown Belleville that do not have access to transportation.

St. Elizabeth's and HSHS blame the aging building for their need for a new hospital. However, whose fault is it that their building has not been maintained? They only have themselves to blame and they cannot blame it on money as the HSHS system has plenty of money in their coffers. Buildings take maintenance and upkeep throughout the years. Memorial Hospital has invested millions in their current Belleville building in the last five years even with the plans of building a new hospital in Shiloh.

If a new building is truly needed, the city of Belleville has offered several different options of accommodating HSHS and St Elizabeth's Hospital in ways of acquiring more land at their current location or even building a new hospital within in the city that would better serve the community but they (HSHS) still plan to leave the city. Even the original plans of having some form of health care at their current location seem to have vanished. Even if St. Elizabeth's has the need to rebuild or wants to rebuild, the city has offered to work with them to allow building while remaining open by offering items such as more land and street closures. St. Elizabeth's wants to downsize so they could easily build new while closing off part of the existing building.

I strongly encourage the CON review board to decline this application. St. Elizabeth's and HSHS need to go back to the drawing board and come up with a plan that works for everyone including the residents that so badly need them in a location in Belleville.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles Comley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "C".

Charles Comley

2748 Lake Lucerne Drive

Belleville, IL 62221

(618) 632-3466

Comley4@sbcglobal.net