

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

McKinley Health Center
1109 South Lincoln Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801



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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

December 20, 2016

Ms. Kathryn Olson, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Support of IHFSRB project # 16-045, Champaign SurgiCenter

Ms. Olson:

As director of McKinley Health Center in Urbana, Illinois, serving thousands of University of Illinois students, I encourage the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve the request by Carle Foundation Hospital to expand access to important surgical care in our region.

At McKinley, a nationally accredited, professionally staffed ambulatory care clinic, it is our mission to provide high-quality ambulatory healthcare and health education to the more than 44,000 students of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Here patients receive preventive health, as well as urgent and emergency care. When our patients need secondary and tertiary care level of care, we often refer them to Carle Foundation Hospital for specialty and inpatient care, and, with references to this project, for surgical care when necessary.

During my years as director of this facility, I have had the opportunity to partner with Carle Foundation Hospital not only for the care of our patients, but also in regard to public health matters because McKinley and Carle serve the community together. I appreciate Carle's proactive approach with regard to planning, understanding the increasing demand for care – not only with a large university and growing community – but also the surrounding region.

To that end, educating future physicians has long been a focus for Carle serving as a clinical site for the College of Medicine campus in Urbana. Carle and the university are now partnering to form the first-ever college built from the start at the intersection of engineering and medicine to take healthcare into the future. This partnership will teach the physicians of the future, will make the Illinois economy even stronger, and will improve health for all.

Carle is critical to ensuring that this part of the state has appropriate resources to care for patients today and in the years to come. I am in full support of Carle's ambulatory surgery center proposed for Champaign and urge the Planning Board to approve this project to improve access to care throughout the region.

Respectfully,

Robert D. Palinkas, MD
Director, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign McKinley Health Center