

KIRBY MEDICAL CENTER

December 26, 2016

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

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Dear Ms. Olson:

I am writing to support Carle Foundation Hospital's proposal to relocate its Ambulatory Surgery Center in Champaign, Illinois (IHFSRB project # 16-045).

Kirby Medical Center is an independent, not-for-profit 501 (c) 3 corporation located in Monticello, Illinois. Since 1941, Kirby has been serving the health care needs of families in Piatt County. We are committed and proud to provide quality and compassionate health care services to all people in need, regardless of their ability to pay. Kirby Medical Center is a designated critical access hospital providing basic, primary care through inpatient care, ancillary services and clinics to residents of a rural area. For our community, Kirby Medical Center serves as a window to wellness, health education, preventative screenings and comprehensive outpatient and inpatient medical services.

We can speak firsthand to the important role Carle Foundation Hospital has played in the extended Central Illinois community for decades. Their reach goes beyond Champaign County, providing care for many from Piatt County when a more advanced level of care is required. The proposed facility that would replace the current ASC will greatly benefit those in the region.

At Kirby Medical Center, we offer surgical services and in addition, visiting specialists provide care to our patients. However, when the level of care required exceeds what we provide at our hospital, patients often have surgery at Carle. Having the procedure in the ambulatory surgery center is not only more cost effective, it is preferred for many patients, because they are able to return to their home within a few miles away on the same day.

Central Illinois depends on the level of care made available to the region through Carle. As a critical access hospital, we rely on the specialized care provided at Carle – allowing our patients to stay close to home, near their loved ones, while receiving top-quality care one would expect only in major metropolitan areas.

On behalf of Kirby Medical Center, I urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve this necessary health improvement initiative that will benefit the East Central Illinois region. It is vital that Carle is able to expand its ability to provide quality surgical care for those in rural areas such as ours, and provide surgical services when an advanced level of care is needed. Thanking you in advance, I remain,

Very truly yours,



Steven D. Tenhouse, FACHE, MHA
Chief Executive Officer