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MIKE FORTNER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
49TH DISTRICT

Project No 17-057

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RECEIVED

DEC 28 2017

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

December 15, 2017

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: *Valley Ambulatory Surgery Center, St. Charles*
Project 17-057

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing to express my strong support for Valley Ambulatory Surgery Center, L.P.'s ("VASC") Certificate of Need application (Project 17-05) to relocate to a new building with modern, state-of-the-art design and an improved clinical environment for patients and staff.

It is my understanding that, under Illinois Certificate of Need laws, this relocation is treated as a discontinuation of the existing facility and establishment of a new facility, though it will not add any new services or surgical capacity to the service area. I am unaware of any opposition to the project from the existing area health care providers.

For almost 40 years, VASC has provided outpatient surgical procedures in St. Charles from the same building. The existing facility is in need of many repairs, has serious design deficiencies, and is no longer tenable as an ambulatory surgery center. For instance, the building is not handicap-accessible, and many doors fail to reach ADA requirements. In addition, the sterile processing work space is not separated into clean and dirty instrument areas, and there is no enclosed loading dock to protect the integrity of medical products. These building design flaws do not comply with current codes and best practices and have resulted in citations to the surgery center.

The exterior of the building requires roofing and foundation repairs, and the main entrance's design often requires cars to back-up and re-approach when dropping off and picking up patients. The building has recurring electrical and plumbing problems, and it has not been cabled for modern IT needs. The fire sprinkler lines leak, periodically requiring closure of the

facility. Recurring false alarms are the result of a malfunctioning fire alarm system. The building's layout includes four separate patient areas, resulting in staffing duplications and other inefficiencies, and there is insufficient storage space for operating room equipment, soiled linen, and red bag (biohazard) waste. The staff lockers do not connect directly to the sterile corridor, as required to prevent one-way flow of staff from nonsterile to sterile areas of the facility.

VASC plans to relocate to a new building with less total square footage and a more efficient and modern design. This will ensure that patient care is not interrupted for the massive and expensive required repairs. VASC's new building will be located only one-quarter mile from the existing facility, making it convenient for patients and staff. It will comply with current ADA and NFPA codes and best practices, and will feature a more cost-efficient layout with new mechanical and electrical systems.

For thirty years, VASC has served the residents of the St. Charles community, and I support its efforts to offer a modern and efficient facility that is consistent with current codes and best practices. I encourage you to approve VASC's application so it may continue to serve the residents of St. Charles with the highest of standards and patient care.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael R. Fortner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael R. Fortner
State Representative