

Project No. 17-057

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:

213-N STRATTON BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
PHONE: 217.782.1486

DISTRICT OFFICE:

959 OAK STREET
NORTH AURORA, ILLINOIS 60542
PHONE: 630.345.3464

Email: office@repkeithwheeler.org



KEITH R. WHEELER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 50TH DISTRICT

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

January 2, 2018

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 17-⁰⁵⁷~~055~~) 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. Thus, VASC does not anticipate 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 all fail to 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 ill design often requires cars to back-up and re-approach when dropping off and picking up patients.

In addition, 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, preventing one-way flow of staff from non-sterile to sterile areas of the facility.

To ensure that patient care is not interrupted for the massive and expensive required repairs, VASC plans to relocate to a new building with less total square footage and a more efficient and modern design. VASC's new building will be located 1/4 mile from the existing facility, making it convenient for patients and staff. It will be compliant 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. Again, I strongly 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. Please don't hesitate to contact me at 630.345.3464 or by email at office@repkeithwheeler.org regarding any questions or concerns.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith R. Wheeler". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Keith R. Wheeler
State Representative
Illinois' 50th District