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November 21, 2017

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator
Health Facilities and Services Review Board
2nd Floor
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, IL 62761

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

**RE: Deerpath Orthopedic Surgical Center
Project #17-059**

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing to express my support for the Expansion of Services project at the Deerpath Orthopedic Surgical Center in Morris. This project will allow the Center to become a full service ambulatory surgery ASTC and coordinate with Morris Hospital's network of healthcare services. It will enhance the operations of both facilities, as they are the only Hospital and ASTC in Grundy County. The benefits of this project include:

- Improvement to the patient experience by providing convenience, and lower cost-options while maintaining coordination of patient care;
- Establishing Deerpath ASTC as a key site for Morris Hospital and Healthcare Centers' ambulatory surgery services; and
- Avoiding duplicative services through coordination and consolidation of outpatient surgical facilities among the Hospital and the ASTC.

I urge you to support the approval of the Certificate-of-Need application for Deerpath Orthopedic Surgical Center in Morris. Approval of the application will increase access for surgical services in Grundy County and support the needs of the community.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Ruth Colby
President/CEO

RC:jlw

cc: Mr. Mark Steadham, CEO, Morris Hospital