

November 13, 2018

Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
Illinois Department of Public Health
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, Illinois 62761

RE: Silver Cross Hospital's Certificate of Need Application for Open Heart Surgical License

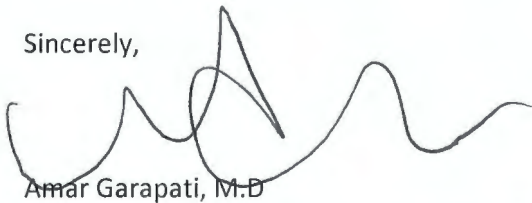
Dear Ms. Avery:

As a practicing pulmonologist with Midwest Respiratory, Ltd. and Medical Director of Silver Cross Hospital's Critical Care Services, I am asking the Illinois Health Facilities Planning & Review Board to grant Silver Cross an open heart surgery license.

With many years of service to the community, my partners and I offer exceptional health care to the Joliet, New Lenox and greater Southwest Chicago suburbs. We serve on the medical staff of both Presence St. Joseph Hospital and Silver Cross Hospital. We are a specialty group provider of pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine. In providing this care, we see the most at-risk patient populations of our community, which often includes cardiac patients. By granting Silver Cross Hospital an open heart surgical license, we will avoid unnecessary transporting of critical care cardiac patients which can introduce physical and safety risks to the patient. Timeliness of care is essential in caring for these patients. Every minute counts. Additionally, disjointed care and unnecessary handoffs can lead to risks to the patient and patient experience.

As a physician at Silver Cross Hospital and Medical Director of Critical Care Services, I see first-hand the importance and emphasis Silver Cross places on quality and safety for our patients. Silver Cross has numerous prestigious awards including the Five-Star Rating by CMS and Leapfrog Grade A in Safety. As a result, Silver Cross is the preferred provider and home hospital for many patients in the community. Personally, I have worked hand-in-hand with the Medical Staff and hospital leadership at Silver Cross for several years. I know that we share a common goal, and that is to put the patient first, honor their preferences, and keep them as safe as possible. By approving this CON application, you will be making sure we do just that by providing comprehensive care to our sickest patients – in one convenient, state of the art location. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amar Garapati', with a stylized, wavy flourish extending from the end.

Amar Garapati, M.D.
Board Certified, Pulmonary Medicine, Internal Medicine and Critical Care
Medical Director, Silver Cross Hospital Critical Care Services