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20 March 2019

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

**RECEIVED**

**MAR 26 2019**

**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Re: Ophthalmology Surgery Center of Illinois (Project no. 18-047)

Dear Ms. Avery,

The intention of this letter is to support the opening of an Ophthalmology Surgery Center in Itasca, Illinois. The Kovach Eye Institute is a well-established and well-known practice in Dupage County, Illinois. In 2018 alone, over 27,000 received exceptional care in the institute's two locations.

As people are living longer and the baby boomer generation is aging, Americans are facing increased risks of cataract development, glaucoma, and other ocular conditions that can potentially threaten vision. Vision loss is now one of the most common ailments experienced in America. The approval and development of this surgical center will provide greater access to the care our residents will eventually, or may already, need.

There are currently few surgical centers that provide ophthalmological procedures, with even fewer that accept Medicaid. Upon approval, this new surgical center will also be a means for our low-income residents who rely on Medicaid to receive the treatment, and possible surgery, they need. This opens up healthcare options to innumerable individuals, including children, that did not have access to care previously.

Please accept my support of this surgery center. Please consider my request of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to consider the benefits of approving the center and the amount of people that will receive the care they need.

Thank you for your time and consideration,



Lindsay Luker, O.D.