Dr Joseph W. Aschenbrenner
330 E. Main St
Barrington IL 60010

April 8, 2019

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

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

Dear Ms. Avery,

Please accept my letter and support for the pending application to open an Ophthalmology Surgery Center in Itasca, Illinois. This Center will help treat the patients of Kovach Eye Institute, a well-established practice with two locations in DuPage County that provided care to over 27,000 patients in 2018 alone.

Vision loss is one of the most common impairments experienced by Americans today, and many more are at risk of developing some form of eye disease. This is especially true as the baby boomer generation continues to age and face increasing risk of developing cataracts, glaucoma and other eye issues. Approving this surgical center will significantly improve access to the treatment needs of our residents.

In addition to supporting our community's aging population, this surgical center will also serve the needs of our low-income residents who rely on Medicaid for their health care. While few area surgical centers provide ophthalmology procedures, even fewer accept Medicaid. This has created a significant care gap, where area patients who are on Medicaid may go to providers that accept their insurance, including Kovach Eye Institute, but are left without further options in the event they learn they require surgery. By accepting Medicaid, the Center will allow countless individuals, including children, access to care previously unavailable to them in the area.

With these facts in mind, I urge the members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve this surgery center to allow these providers to serve the surgical needs of our community.

Sincerely,

Dr Joseph W. Aschenbrenner
Barrington Eye Care Center

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