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June 28, 2019

VIA FEDEX

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

RECEIVED

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Re: The Rehabilitation Institute of Southern Illinois, Project #19-021- Letter of Support - Gregory J. Zipfel, M.D., Chairman of Neurological Surgery, Washington University School of Medicine

Dear Ms. Avery:

Enclosed please find a letter of support for Project #19-021, The Rehabilitation Institute of Southern Illinois from Gregory J. Zipfel, M.D., FACS, FAHA, FAANS, Chairman of Neurological Surgery, Washington University School of Medicine

If you have any questions or need any additional information regarding the project, please feel free to contact me via phone at 312-212-4967 or via email at JMorado@beneschlaw.com. You can also contact my colleague Mark J. Silberman, via phone at 312-212-4952 or via email at MSilberman@beneschlaw.com with any questions.

Very truly yours,

BENESCH, FRIEDLANDER,
COPLAN & ARONOFF LLP

Juan Morado Jr.

Enclosures
cc: George Roate, Project Reviewer



Washington University in St. Louis

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Department of Neurological Surgery

Gregory J. Zipfel, MD, FACS, FAHA, FAANS

Professor and Chairman of Neurological Surgery

Neurosurgeon – in- Chief, Barnes- Jewish Hospital

Residency Program Director

Co-Director, Stroke and Cerebrovascular Center

June 28, 2019

Courtney Avery

Board Administrator

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525 West Jefferson Street, Second Floor

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Re: The Rehabilitation Institute of Southern Illinois, LLC's Proposal to Establish a 40-bed Comprehensive Physical Rehabilitation Hospital in St. Clair County, HSA11

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing to express my support for The Rehabilitation Institute of Southern Illinois, LLC's Certificate of Need application to build a comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation hospital in St. Claire County, HSA-11. In my role as Chairman & Neurosurgeon- in- Chief, I am responsible for all clinical, research, and business related items for the Department of Neurological Surgery and Washington University School of Medicine.

Specifically for our patient population, considering the complexity of their care, we could see great benefit from a freestanding acute inpatient rehabilitation hospital in St. Claire County. As things currently stand, patients that live in Illinois face a number of barriers in receiving such care due as lack of close services for both the patients and their families. Crossing state lines to begin inpatient rehab is only one hurdle. There is also a lack of advanced technologies in acute rehab care, and limited locations turns into additional limitations relating to physician interaction and availability. If a facility is available closer to their homes overall therapy versus length of stay results balance out much more significantly. Having all available therapies in one location streamlines the process and allows for greater participation by the family members.

Currently, our faculty use The Rehabilitation Institute of St. Louis regularly for our extended patient care. The connection built between the medical staff at the rehab facility and our physicians continues to grow stronger on a regular basis due to availability and cohesive communication of the patient's care plan.

The Certificate of Need to the Rehabilitation Institute of Southern Illinois should be taken into consideration without reservation. Providing acute inpatient care to St. Claire County will only continue to strengthen the quality of care provided to our patients after they leave our facility. The location will provides significant opportunities for growth for both Washington University/Barnes-Jewish Hospital and the Rehabilitation Institutes.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Zipfel, MD, FACS, FAHA, FAANS