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July 5, 2019

**RECEIVED**

**JUL 16 2019**

**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

**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

**Re: The Rehabilitation Institute of Southern Illinois, Project #19-021- Letter of Support - Allyson Zazulia, M.D., Professor of Neurology and Radiology, 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 Allyson Zazulia, M.D., Professor of Neurology and Radiology, 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](mailto: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](mailto:MSilberman@beneschlaw.com) with any questions.

Very truly yours,

BENESCH, FRIEDLANDER,  
COPLAN & ARONOFF LLP

Juan Morado Jr.

Enclosures  
cc: George Roate, Project Reviewer

June 12, 2019

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

**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 20+ years as a vascular neurologist at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, I have diagnosed and treated countless patients who have suffered from a stroke or intracerebral hemorrhage.

Many of my patients in the acute care hospital setting would benefit from a freestanding acute inpatient rehabilitation hospital in St. Claire County, Illinois. Our neurology service cares for many of those patients who live in Southern Illinois but don't have easy access to an inpatient rehabilitation hospital such as The Rehabilitation Institute of St. Louis. As such those patients may not be getting the advantages of rehabilitation close to their home where it is convenient for their family to participate in their therapy and recovery. Since specialized inpatient rehabilitative care results in lower length of stay, improved cognitive and physical functionality, faster return to activities of daily living, and inclusion of family participation in rehabilitation, these patients need a talented team of rehabilitation-trained physicians, nurses and therapists who can provide this.

I strongly urge you to grant a Certificate of Need to The Rehabilitation Institute of Southern Illinois, LLC for an acute inpatient rehabilitation hospital in St. Claire County. I anticipate it will have an immediate positive impact on our hospital's length of stay, on caregiver education, and patient integration back into their own community.

Sincerely,



Allyson R. Zazulia, MD  
Professor of Neurology and Radiology  
Associate Dean for Continuing Medical Education  
Washington University School of Medicine

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