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July 12, 2019

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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 - Paul Santiago, M.D., Professor of Neurological & Orthopaedic 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 Paul Santiago, M.D., Professor of Neurological & Orthopaedic 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

Paul Santiago, MD

**Professor of Neurological & Orthopaedic
Surgery**

July 1, 2019

Re: The Rehabilitation Institute of Southern Illinois, LLC's Proposal to Establish a 40-bed
Comprehensive Physical Rehabilitation Hospital in St. Clair County, HSA 11

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

Dr. Ms. Avery:

I am writing to express my support for The Rehabilitation Institution of Southern Illinois, LLC certificate of need application to build a comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation hospital in St. Clair County, HSA-11. In my role as patient safety and quality improvement officer for the Department of Neurological Surgery at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, I am responsible for overseeing the relationship between The Rehabilitation Institute and the patients care for The Department of Neurological Surgery. I meet formally on a quarterly basis with the leadership at The Rehabilitation Institute as well as interacting frequently with the care teams at The Rehabilitation Institute. As the patient safety officer, I help to address any issues with respect to care at The Rehabilitation Institute as well as to pass on the frequent comments regarding the superlative care and frequently pass on compliments with respect to the care received by our patients at The Rehabilitation Institute.

The Rehabilitation Institute, both at its facilities here in the Central West End of St. Louis as well as in St. Peters, provides intensive physical, occupational and speech therapies that result in lower length of stay, improved functionality, returning faster to activities of daily living, inclusion of family participation and rehabilitation, etc. The Rehabilitation Institute facilities also provides emotional support for our families. Many patients undergoing neurosurgical intervention suffer from significant disruption in their family lives as well as in their life in general. Once discharged from acute care, patients have the time to consider how their life will change once released from acute care. Many patients undergoing neurosurgical treatment have the opportunity to consider how their life has changed or will change due to their illness. The providers at The Rehabilitation Institute provide a support network for patients during this time of transition. I have also been impressed by the outpatient facilities and therapies offered to our patients, both in non-operative and operative cases. Referrals to The Rehabilitation Institute are



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handled efficiently and professionally.

I believe that granting a certificate of need to The Rehabilitation Institute of Southern Illinois, LLC for an acute inpatient rehab hospital in St. Clair County would have a positive impact on our patients in this region. For many patients, travel to St. Louis can be difficult and in some cases the distance is prohibitive. I believe that the community in this region would benefit significantly from having a rehabilitation facility in close proximity to their homes. There is an obvious lack of these services in this community, which has not been addressed as of yet. I believe you would be doing this community a service by allowing this project to proceed.

Please feel free to contact me at any time if I can provide any further assistance.

Respectfully,

Paul Santiago, MD
Professor of Neurological and Orthopaedic Surgery
Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Officer, Department of Neurological Surgery
Co-Director, Neurosurgical Spine Fellowship
Co-Director, Spinal Oncology Program