

July 29, 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

Re: The Rehabilitation Institute of Southern Illinois, Project #19-021 - Letter of Support - Nicole Werner, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Neurology, 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 Nicole Werner, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Neurology, 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.

JM:ms
Enclosure

cc: George Roate, Project Reviewer

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Neurology
Division of Neurorehabilitation

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 roles as the President of the Medical Executive Committee and consulting neuropsychologist at The Rehabilitation Institute of St. Louis in St. Louis and St. Peters, I have had the opportunity to see firsthand how rehabilitation efforts help improve patient outcomes following devastating neurological conditions arise.

Patients in the St. Claire County area could certainly benefit from a freestanding acute inpatient rehabilitation hospital in St. Claire County. Patients in rural communities experience considerable barriers to receiving comprehensive healthcare services. As you know, many patients and their families in rural communities have to drive great distances to see general practitioners and they have little access to specialty care in close proximity to them. Many patients must travel to Missouri to receive specialty services such as inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation.

Patients would directly benefit from having more access to intensive physical, occupational, and speech therapies in their communities to help them improve their functionality, and to quickly return to their activities of daily living. High levels of family participation in patients' rehabilitation is also a key component to improved outcomes; therefore, an inpatient rehabilitation facility in St. Claire County area would allow for more family involvement in the rehabilitation process for patients who reside in the St. Claire County area.

For these reasons, I hope you will seriously consider the granting of a Certificate of Need to The Rehabilitation Institute of Southern Illinois, LLC for an acute inpatient rehab hospital in St. Claire County. It would provide a much needed service to patients like those I see in our facilities, as well as, to the larger community.

Sincerely,



Nicole Werner, Ph.D., ABPP
Associate Professor of Neurology
Washington University School of Medicine