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July 30, 2019

RECEIVED

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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 - Oksana Volshteyn, M.D., Professor and Chief of NeuroRehabilitation Division, Washington University

Dear Ms. Avery:

Enclosed please find a letter of support for Project #19-021, The Rehabilitation Institute of Southern Illinois from Oksana Volshteyn, M.D., Professor and Chief of NeuroRehabilitation Division, Washington University.

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

**Division of Neuro-Rehabilitation
Department of Neurology**

July 29, 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 role as a board certified physician in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and in Spinal Cord Injury Medicine and the Chief, Division of NeuroRehabilitation at Washington University School of Medicine, I focus my practice on spinal cord injury, pain management, spasticity and amputee rehabilitation.

I have spent the past 20 years of my career helping individuals recover from chronic pain and disabling spinal cord injuries and other neuromuscular diseases. In my role as a physical medicine and rehabilitation physician, I assist patients in making recommendations for post-acute rehabilitation treatment options as they are discharged from our Comprehensive Stroke Center or Level I Trauma Center at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. Many of my patients confuse inpatient rehab facilities with skilled nursing facilities. Inpatient rehabilitation facilities utilize an interdisciplinary team including physicians, nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech therapist, social workers, and psychologists to focus on the needs of the patient. The collective expertise of a healthcare team along with medical oversight enhances the rehabilitation experience and improves outcomes. Extensive clinical research has shown that individuals who have sustained severe or disabling injuries achieve improved functional gains in walking, self-care, and other physical functions after completing a

short term course of intensive, comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation treatment than those who obtain a prolonged course of convalescent care at a skilled nursing facility.

I also educate my patients and their families that individuals completing inpatient rehabilitation also have improved psychosocial status and cognitive function leading to better quality of life, and more often return to their prior roles within their families, work, and community.

Many of my patients who have required these inpatient rehabilitation services live in Southern Illinois which creates travel challenges for their family and friends who are an integral part of their rehabilitation and recovery. Unfortunately, I have seen many patients who would be better served by inpatient rehabilitation services but chose lower levels of subacute rehabilitation or skilled nursing facilities closer to their home in Illinois because of geographical or transportation difficulties. I believe that an inpatient rehabilitation hospital in the St. Claire County, Illinois area will finally serve patients and families closer to home to obtain the level of rehabilitative care within their local community.

As much of my practice is at The Rehabilitation Institute of St. Louis I experience the cutting-edge rehabilitation technology and services for disabled individuals. I know first-hand the advanced rehab processes and data analytics that Encompass Health continuously refines to provide high quality and safe medical and rehabilitative care for their patients. There is no doubt The Rehabilitation Institute of Southern Illinois will carry forward a fine reputation and provide a much needed service to the citizens who live in this area.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Oksana Volshteyn, M.D. in black ink.

Oksana Volshteyn, MD
Professor
Chief of NeuroRehabilitation Division,
Department of Neurology
Washington University, St Louis, MO