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19-021

August 9, 2019

RECEIVED

AUG 12 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 - Salah G. Keyrouz, M.D., Associate Professor, Neurology and Neurosurgery, Washington University

Dear Ms. Avery:

Enclosed please find a letter of support for Project #19-021, The Rehabilitation Institute of Southern Illinois from Salah G. Keyrouz, M.D., Associate Professor, Neurology and Neurosurgery, 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



Washington University in St. Louis

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Salah Keyrouz, MD
Associate Professor,
Stroke and Critical Care
Neurology and Neurosurgery

July 31, 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 share my support of The Rehabilitation Institute of Southern Illinois's Certificate of Need application to build an acute comprehensive rehabilitation hospital in St. Clair County, Illinois. As a practicing stroke neurologist and neurointensivist at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, I work closely with the entire stroke team to assure the very best outcomes for our patients. The whole continuum of care however is not realized in just the acute care hospital, but extends to the post-acute rehabilitation setting as well. Many of the patients who suffer a stroke often have significant speech deficits, right or left sided weakness or paralysis, difficulty or inability to ambulate, or complicating co-morbid conditions that cause a tremendous impact on their quality of life. Intense, advanced, and comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation is the best post-acute care option to help these individuals regain as much cognitive and physical function as possible and return to their activities of daily living.

The challenge then becomes where to send the patient who has had a stroke or other debilitating neurological or traumatic event. From my experience, those patients I have sent to The Rehabilitation Institute of St. Louis (TRISL) where the focus was on restorative intensive physical, occupational and speech therapies, were able to return back to their home or other living situation much quicker and experienced far better outcomes. We care for many patients who reside in southern Illinois, right across the Mississippi River. Those individuals would rather transfer to a comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation hospital closer to home, where their friends and family can easily visit and participate in their rehab. Unfortunately, they end up choosing to go to a skilled nursing facility or nursing home where rehabilitative therapies are limited and inferior to that of a rehab hospital such as TRISL. The patient's stay is too long, the therapy much less intense, and the outcomes aren't optimal for the patient's best functional and cognitive potential. There is a tremendous need for comprehensive rehabilitation hospital services in that area and the people there deserve the best possible choices for their post-acute care healthcare needs.