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JUL **26** 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES & July 10, 2019 SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board 525 West Jefferson Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Letter of Support for Blessing Hospital's Certificate of Need for Relocation of its Ambulatory Surgery Treatment Center

Dear Ms. Avery:

I'm Mark Schmitz, Executive Director of Transitions of Western Illinois, a charitable, not-for-profit agency that provides mental health, rehabilitation and education services to some 7,000 Quincy-area residents every year. With a staff of 175, we are a significant employer in Quincy.

The relocation and modernization of the Ambulatory Surgery Treatment Center is the next evolution of this service. Blessing Hospital has consistently maintained contemporary services in our community. I support the relocation of the ASTC to the Blessing Hospital campus, which will make it easier for patients to identify that Blessing Hospital is providing the service-since it will be on its campus and not in the middle of a Quincy Medical Group medical office building. Accessibility to better parking will also benefit ASTC patients. By enabling Blessing to effectively compete – particularly given the recent approval of a new ASTC in Quincy – competitive pricing will also benefit both patients and employers in our community.

As a business leader in our community, I ask the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve this request.

Sincerely,

**Mark Schmitz** 

**Executive Director**