



SENATOR SARA FEIGENHOLTZ  
STATE OF ILLINOIS

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AUG 12 2020

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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August 3, 2020

Ms. Debra Savage  
Chair  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson Street, Second Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Support for Lincoln Park Gastroenterology Center - Project No. 20-012

Dear Chairwoman Savage:

I write in support of the application by AMITA Saint Joseph Hospital ("ASJHC") and the participating physicians to convert hospital endoscopy suites to surgical center endoscopic suites. This is exactly the model for gastroenterology that the State of Illinois should be encouraging.

Under this Project, AMITA proposes to take four of its current GI suites licensed for the hospital and convert this area into a joint venture Ambulatory Surgical Treatment Center with area physicians.

I have been serving this district for over 25 years. From the beginning of my legislative tenure I have focused on health care policy, serving on both the House and Senate Human Services committees. As you know, Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance companies pay much higher rates for endoscopic procedures performed in a hospital than they do for procedures in a surgery center. Governmental and private payors are strongly encouraging, if not demanding, that gastroenterologists perform their procedures in the lower cost environment. For example, the charges for a Diagnostic Colonoscopy is approximately \$2,680 versus \$1,000 in the ASTC. The proposed project brings the same high-quality care at a much lower cost.

I am also enthused that this project is a collaboration between the hospital and the participating physicians. As the daughter of an obstetrician I strongly believe that physician participation improves the quality of care provided.

This project would provide the exact same care, at significant savings to patients, without increasing the inventory of GI procedure rooms. I encourage the Board to approve this application.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sara Feigenholtz".

Sara Feigenholtz  
State Senator, 6<sup>th</sup> District