



chicago

gastroenterology

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Board Certified Gastroenterologists

August 14, 2020

Ms. Debra Savage

Chair

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

525 West Jefferson St., Second Floor

Springfield IL 62761

Re: Support for Lincoln Park Gastroenterology Center
Project # 20-012

Dear Chair Savage:

This letter is to express my support for the CON application to convert the GI endoscopy suites at St. Joseph's hospital into a surgical center. I am a Board certified physician specializing in Gastroenterology and increasingly the medical insurances that I accept are asking for the patients to have their procedures done in a surgical center in lieu of having it done in the hospital. Medical costs have skyrocketed in the last 5 years and increasingly the cost of medical care is being pushed onto the patient. Because of this, many patients are opting not to have their procedures done due to the high cost. This is dangerous and can have fatal consequences. Having a lower cost alternative for much needed endoscopies is critical for the patient population of this area.

I would be doing many cases at the new surgical center with the same high standards and safety measures that I currently do in a hospital setting but at a much lower cost to the patient. I ask you to approve this project for the benefit of the surrounding community. I welcome any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Castillo'.

Samuel F. Castillo, MD

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