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General Assembly
state of Illinois

Dale A. Righter
State Senator • 55th District

August 30, 2020

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Members of the Board:

I write you today in support of the proposed Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Clinic structure, intended as a replacement for the current facility {Effingham Medical Office Building #20-030}. Thank you for the opportunity to provide my thoughts on this issue.

As the State Senator from the 55th district, my area of representation includes both Effingham and Coles Counties. My interest is two-fold; first, to see that an accurate, fact-based discussion of the application and its potential impact takes precedence. Second, I am an advocate for the overall advancement of this region, both in terms of financial investment and patient care.

As you are aware, the application before you contemplates the construction of a replacement medical facility, which represents an approximately \$35 million investment in the City of Effingham for purposes of housing, with one small exception, services already being provided by the Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Clinic. Currently the Clinic's services are housed in several facilities throughout the City of Effingham. The new facility will allow for consolidation of several services under one roof; the benefit to the patients who choose to seek services at the Clinic is both clear and substantial.

The sole exception referenced above is the addition of a single CT scan machine. According to submitted materials, and other available information, St. Anthony's Hospital in Effingham, a facility owned by the HSHS system based in Springfield, performs approximately

13,600 CT scans per year; the addition of a single CT scan machine at the Clinic will result in approximately 300 scans, currently performed at the HSHS facility in Effingham, being provided by the Clinic instead. As a percentage, that would constitute a mere 2% of the scans performed.

Critical to the evaluation of this application, as with all such applications, is the willingness to ensure that public comments regarding the potential impact of any project be verified by and comport with the application itself. On that note, claims have been made that the St. Anthony's HSHS facility will lose over \$30 million in revenue as a result of the project at issue. But from my review of the application and other materials available, there is no evidence to support such a claim. Any significant revenue loss to St. Anthony's which results from the Clinic's operations is occurring already today; the construction of a new building to replace the current facilities will not change that fact.

As I noted at the top of this correspondence, my interest in this issue is driven by a desire to see that discussion and consideration of this application be driven by the contents and predictable impacts of the actual project under consideration, and the advancement of this region as a whole. The proposed medical office building, in bringing the services already being provided by the Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Clinic under one roof and investing \$35 million in new construction in Effingham, is certainly an advancement both financially and in terms of patient care.

As such, I respectfully urge the Board to approve the application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale A. Righter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Dale A. Righter

State Senator

55th District