

September 1, 2020

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

Dear Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board members,

I am writing in support of the newly proposed Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Clinic (Effingham Medical Office Building #20-030).

Trust is important in life, particularly when it involves your healthcare. You want to trust your doctor to treat your illness appropriately, and you trust that the staff to treat you with care and compassion. You trust that your health information remains confidential.

Sarah Bush Lincoln's leadership has earned the community's trust through its words that are supported by its actions. This hospital is deeply committed to creating access to care for its community. Recently, replacement plans were unveiled for an aging medical office building in Effingham. As the immediate past chairperson of the Sarah Bush Lincoln Board of Directors, I assure you that it is just a replacement building! It is large enough to accommodate 17 medical staff members in six busy practices, as well as ancillary services.

I can also assure you that there was never a discussion, a mention, or a thought that Sarah Bush Lincoln would convert the new medical office building into a micro hospital or a surgery center, as some have suggested. The building is not appropriately designed to accommodate surgical procedures, and the Illinois Department of Public Health would never approve the building design for this use. I am well acquainted with many of the Sarah Bush Lincoln leaders and I can say without reservation that their word is their bond! They are the epitome of integrity, and that is the foundation of their decision making.

Our board is a steward of the organization. Over the years, I have come to appreciate the complexity of healthcare. I have witnessed my fellow board members wrestle with tough decisions at every turn: *Should we enter a service line? Should we build a new facility? Should we partner with another organization?*

Sarah Bush Lincoln has a long history of making thoughtful decisions because its staff members mine data, develop long-term projections and make fact-based decisions that serve the community-at-large well. SBL does this to achieve its mission: to provide excellent care for all and create healthy communities. This means that no one is ever turned away for an inability to pay for care.

At 43 years old, Sarah Bush Lincoln is a financially strong organization with an A+ rating from S & P Global Ratings and is ranked in the top 6 percent of hospitals in the nation for quality and safety. It has earned the designation of Top Rural Hospital by The Leapfrog Group. Sarah Bush Lincoln is a trusted source of care in the region destined for an even greater impact.

Please accept this letter as an indication of my full support of Effingham Medical Office Building  
#20-030.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott Wilson', with a large, stylized initial 'S'.

Scott Wilson  
Immediate Past Chairperson, Sarah Bush Lincoln Board of Directors