

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
Attn: Courtney Avery, Administrator
525 West Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Administrator Avery:

I am happy to write this letter of support for OrthoIllinois' Certificate of Need application to open a surgery center.

I recently received medical care from Dr. Brian Braaksma of OrthoIllinois. Dr. Braaskma, his staff and other staff at OrthoIllinois provided incredible services. I first was referred to Dr. Braaksma about 7 years ago while I was still working full-time, and had good insurance. After retiring, starting Medicare, and getting a backup of BCBS, I figured everyone would be paid fairly by insurance. After my last surgery with Dr. Braaksma, and with my new insurance in place I was shocked to see the pittance he was paid after the procedure.

With a neck surgery coming up I offered to set up some type of payment above and beyond what the insurance would probably pay him, just to be more fair in what he was being compensated. He assured me not to worry, and that his concern was getting me fixed again. I was almost embarrassed to go back to OrthoIllinois for the injections from Dr. Fabel knowing how little they would be reimbursed. Working for a non-profit organization my whole life, I realize you can't make a living off folks with my level of insurance coverage. This was never an issue for the doctors at OrthoIllinois. I continued to be treated with the greatest respect, professionalism, and care every time I am was treated by their doctors.

From the intake staff, to the support staff, to the doctors themselves. They all deserve tremendous thanks for the way they represent OrthoIllinois. I wish I could list all their names but they all deserve thanks and recognition. Again, working in non-profit jobs my whole life I know the "thank you's" are few and far between. Because of the care I received these last 8 years I was able to keep working. Most importantly I remain painless and self-sufficient, even with 5 pounds of hardware in my back to address my issues.

OrthoIllinois more than deserves to be approved for their surgery center. If this surgery center will allow more folks to live pain free lives then I hope it's built as soon as possible.

Michael P. Isitoro
izzy60136@yahoo.com

