

August 9, 2021

Courtney Avery
Board Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, Second Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Letter of Support- OrthoIllinois Surgery Center of Elgin, Project #20-040

Dear Ms. Avery,

My name is Jeness Barthel and I am the head of the Obstetrics department at Sherman Hospital. I have served this community for 14 years, and have served in multiple leadership roles at Sherman Hospital.

As a surgeon, I see first hand the capacity limits at the hospital. It is difficult to get block time, and it is difficult to add on a case. This has been an ongoing issue for years, and is finally reaching a breaking point. There are just not enough operating rooms in this community to support the volume of cases that need to be done. I personally know employees of the hospital, and anesthesia providers that have quit due to burnout. This community needs greater access, and the only practical way to achieve it is to have more operating rooms.

Therefore, I am in support of the proposed Orthopedic Specialty Surgery Center. Taking cases to the more cost efficient surgery center is not only better for the patients, but also better for the community. It lowers the cost of care for everyone, and makes healthcare more accessible. The doctors at OrthoIllinois have been a major provider of safety net care to this community for decades. It makes perfect sense for them to strengthen the medical safety net by building this center.

I support their application and ask the Health Facilities and Services Review Board to do the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeness Barthel MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jeness Barthel, MD