

April 5th, 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- Orthollinois Surgery Center of Elgin, Project #20-040

Dear Ms. Avery,

My name is Irene Wu and I am a general surgeon at Advocate Sherman Hospital in Elgin, IL. I currently serve as the Chairman of Surgery at Advocate Sherman Hospital. I am writing this letter, not in my role as Chairman, but as a surgeon who works at Sherman and is very knowledgeable of the current needs of the community. Please accept this letter of STRONG support for the Orthollinois Surgery Center of Elgin ambulatory surgical treatment center ("ASTC") project.

The lack of operative time availability has been a long-standing issue for years. Many efforts have been made to improve OR efficiency, to increase the number of surgeries that can be performed. So far, these efforts have been ineffective. There is a subcommittee that meets every two weeks to try to improve efficiencies, but the bottom line is that the Elgin community doesn't have enough operating rooms.

The primary issue at the hospital is that cases that should be performed at an outpatient facility are being performed in the hospital setting. This not only increases the cost of care, but it also leads to a backlog of cases that can only be performed at the hospital. Hospital resources are being wasted on outpatient cases, and inpatient cases are forced to wait in line.

A sub-specialty surgical center for orthopedics is an obvious solution, since many orthopedic cases can be and should be performed in the surgery center setting. The net effect to the hospital will likely be neutral, since it will create more time for inpatient cases.

I am excited that our partners from Orthollinois are willing to invest in the Elgin community and provide full support for their new facility. It will be good for the community, and good for the hospitals. I hope that the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board will support this application.

Sincerely,



Irene Wu, MD