



December 21, 2020

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

Dear Services Review Board:

I would like to offer my support for the expansion of surgical specialties to the Physicians' Surgical Center. As we are all aware, Physicians' Surgical Center has a track record of providing convenient, cost saving and quality care to the indigenous population of Southwest Illinois for more than 20 years. In its new location it is even better poised to provide much needed care to patients who in many cases are underinsured and/or underserved, thus have health care referral access issues. Therefore, these patients do not have the same quality of care and support that patients with commercial insurances have experienced.

As we are well aware the Physicians' Surgical Center and its affiliates are the largest specialty provider of healthcare to federally qualified patients in Southwest Illinois, even eclipsing the services provided by all of the local hospitals. This is an astonishing and noteworthy accomplishment. Therefore, I applauded and offer my enthusiastic support for the addition of Ophthalmology and Pain Management to this surgical facility in O'Fallon, Illinois.

The majority of patients served in my practice are covered by one of the Medicaid plans. Many times, when trying to refer a patient to specialists and hospitals for screening procedures or surgeries the patient's insurance coverage is a roadblock to access to services. Because Metro East Surgery Center (MESC) has provided more timely consultations this has prevented a delay in care. I have referred numerous patients to MESC in the past and look forward to referring patients to the Physicians Surgical Center in O'Fallon as well. The proposed additional specialties of Ophthalmology and Pain Management will allow me to serve my patients and families more efficiently and prevent needless delays complicated by travel outside of their own community for specialty care.

In conclusion I overwhelmingly endorse and enthusiastic support the expansion of patient care services as proposed by the Physician's Surgical Center's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Wagner, M.D.', written in a cursive style.

John Wagner, M.D.

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