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An Affiliate of  UnityPoint Health

September 23, 2020

Courtney Avery, Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Small Format Hospital in Quincy – Certificate of Need Permit Application [**Insert Project No.**]; Letter of Support and Commitment to Redeploy Beds

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am the Chief Executive Officer of Memorial Hospital Association (“MHA”), an 18-bed Critical Access Hospital located in Carthage, Illinois. The Board of Directors of MHA has authorized me to express MHA’s strong support for Quincy Medical Group (“QMG”) Hospital’s Certificate of Need application to establish a 25-bed small format hospital in Quincy, Illinois.

In October of 2020, MHA will celebrate serving the Hancock County community for 70 years. MHA is committed to delivering outstanding healthcare and ensuring every patient receives the best outcome every time. MHA has worked collaboratively with QMG, a multi-specialty physician group in Quincy, for many years to deliver specialized healthcare services to patients in our community. MHA and QMG share a commitment to improve rural healthcare services so that residents can continue to receive exceptional healthcare close to home. With QMG’s sponsorship and leadership, QMG Hospital will provide the region a fully integrated patient-centered healthcare system that will improve care coordination of rural healthcare services, enhance access to more affordable local healthcare, direct care to the lowest appropriate setting, improve the exchange of data between rural providers in the area, and reduce the overall cost of healthcare for both payors and patients. The proposed hospital is necessary to accomplishing these goals.

MHA and QMG have collaborated to improve rural healthcare with several regional healthcare providers. These efforts include QMG’s recently approved ambulatory surgery center, recently expanded telehealth program, and MHA and QMG collaborating to develop a “Hospital at Home” service. QMG and MHA have a strong partnership and have worked collaboratively for many years to deliver specialized healthcare services to patients in the Carthage community. QMG has committed to continue providing specialized physician services to Carthage in the years ahead. MHA is excited to continue partnering with QMG to redesign and improve rural healthcare and enhance the ability of our organizations to deliver exceptional, high quality, and efficient patient-centered care at a lower cost to our communities.



MHA's Board of Directors has passed a resolution affirming the redeployment of 6 to 8 of its medical surgical beds to QMG Hospital. The redeployment will constitute a "Change in the Bed Count of a Health Care Facility" and will occur at or near the time QMG Hospital commences operations. MHA will provide notice at the time of its bed reduction pursuant to 77 Illinois Administrative Code § 1130.240. We believe this redeployment of beds is in the best interest of residents of both Hancock and Adams County. MHA is willing to redeploy these beds because it expects a change in the need for inpatient beds as a result of the COVID pandemic, changes in the health care market, and changes in the health care needs of its community.

MHA urges the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve QMG Hospital's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ada Bair".

Ada Bair  
Chief Executive Officer

AB/sf