



BARRINGTON

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August 12, 2022

Ms. Debra Savage, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761
lcoats@gipartnersofil.com

RE: Pepper Road Endoscopy Center (Proj. No. 22-024)

Dear Ms. Savage,

As the President of the Barrington Village Board and resident of Barrington for 37 years, I am writing in support of Pepper Road Endoscopy Center's certificate of need to establish an endoscopy center in Lake Barrington.

The need for endoscopy services, of which colonoscopy is a core function, is great. Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related death in the United States and Illinois, with over 2,200 deaths per year across the state. Cancer mortality can be reduced by 15 to 25% through recommended screening methods. Colonoscopy is the gold standard for screening and detecting colorectal cancer and makes it possible to remove a suspect polyp or cancer immediately, which is one of the most effective ways to prevent colorectal cancer development. With timely screening and treatment, colorectal cancer can be treated in the early stages when the survival rate is 90% compared to advanced stages of the disease where the survival rate drops to 14%.

In the United States, only 67% of adults between the age of 50 and 75 are up to date with colorectal cancer screening, which is below the National Colorectal Roundtable goal of 80% adherence to colorectal cancer screening. Further, due to COVID-related fears and leading agencies like CMS and the American Cancer Society recommending patients delay all non-urgent procedures, colonoscopies were delayed or cancelled during the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to an estimated colorectal cancer screening deficit of 3.8 million people from January 2020 to July 2020. To make up this deficit, it is estimated colorectal cancer screening needs to increase by 50%.

The proposed Pepper Road Endoscopy Center will improve access to this much needed service to residents of Lake County. I support the establishment of Pepper Road Endoscopy Center.

Sincerely,

Karen Darch
Village President

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