



July 15, 2022

Mr. John Kniery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Springfield Clinic – Springfield Ambulatory Surgery Center
Establishment of Cardiac Catherization – Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Kniery:

We write in support of Springfield Clinic's application for a Certificate of Need to establish cardiac catherization services at its surgery center in Springfield.

The Southern Central Hospital Alliance was formed in 2019 and includes Carlinville Area Hospital & Clinics, Pana Community Hospital, Hillsboro Area Hospital and Jersey Community Hospital. The alliance allows our four rural hospitals to collaborate on mutually beneficial opportunities to maintain professional, community-based, high-quality healthcare in our local communities. We together serve distinct, rural, southern Central Illinois communities, and share similar missions, goals and challenges. We believe we serve the needs of our patients who have limited access to care in our rural area.

One of the challenges of rural hospitals in Illinois, like ours, is to find the quality of physicians and clinicians that our patients deserve.

Pana Community Hospital, Hillsboro Area Hospital and Carlinville Area Hospital have developed a successful collaboration with Springfield Clinic. Springfield Clinic physicians travel to our communities frequently to see patients in our area. This allows our patients to receive care, including specialized care, without leaving our community. Because of our aging population it is very beneficial for our patients to have increased access to services like specialized cardiology.

We support Springfield Clinic establishing cardiac catherization services at its surgery center. Having this is a necessary component in Springfield Clinic's recruitment efforts to attract top cardiology talent that ultimately will service our facilities in turn.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. Diane Clark".

Trina J. Casner

R. Diane Clark p.p. Beth King