



November 23, 2022

Chairwoman Debra Savage and Members  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

**RE: Springfield Clinic – Springfield Clinic Ambulatory Surgery Center Establishment of Cardiac Catheterization: Letter of Opposition**

Dear Chairwoman Savage and Members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board:

We are writing to you to express strong opposition to Springfield Clinic's Certificate of Need ("CON") application to establish cardiac catheterizations at the Springfield Clinic Ambulatory Surgery Center. It is our belief that, if approved, this project will lead to substandard care and increased health disparities for our community. People of color are often the most vulnerable members of the community and a project such as this would only further expose these vulnerabilities.

The approval of this project would likely worsen health disparities among people of color and marginalized groups. As you are probably aware, Medicaid is the public health insurance program funding health care for low-income families. It is estimated that 26% of all Illinois residents are covered by Medicaid, and almost 86% of those covered are people of color.

Yet, Springfield Clinic's CON application clearly states patients covered by Medicaid comprise only 5% of their total cardiology visits. Unlike our Illinois hospitals, which provide billions of dollars in true charity care annually and take care of all patients regardless of their ability to pay, Springfield Clinic provides no charity care. In fact, the Safety Net Impact Statement in the application highlights that payment plans would be necessary for those not covered under a third-party insurance plan. Simply put, the increased patient access referenced in several letters of support for this project will not be gained by the Medicaid or uninsured population. Instead, the for-profit Springfield Clinic will redirect commercially insured patients from hospitals well-equipped and most capable to safely provide this service – the same hospitals demonstrating stalwart support and service to their communities before, during, and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

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