



DORIS TURNER
STATE SENATOR • 48th DISTRICT

November 22, 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

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

I am writing to express my concern regarding Springfield Clinic's Certificate of Need ("CON") application to establish cardiac catheterizations at the Springfield Clinic Ambulatory Surgery Center.

As the State Senator from Illinois' 48th District, I serve on the Health Appropriations Committee and was proud to sponsor Illinois' Health Care and Human Service Reform Act (now reflected as Public Act (102-0004), that will tangibly expand health equity and establish the Anti-Racism Commission focused on eliminating systemic racism. I have also served on the Board of Directors for various health-focused organizations, was a founding board member of the SIU Federally Qualified Health Center, and currently serve on the Sangamon County Board of Health.

While a cardiac catheterization is a common procedure used to diagnose or treat heart problems, it does not come without risk. Heart attacks, strokes, bleeding, and blood clots are just some of the complications that could arise with the procedure. These risks are why cardiac catheterizations should be performed in a supervised hospital setting where resources are available to minimize the opportunity for them to become major complications.

I am also concerned about the impact on health disparities among people of color and other marginalized populations. Medicaid is the public health insurance program funding health care for low-income families, and I would ask that there be a commitment from any healthcare facility to provide access to the estimated 26% of all Illinois residents that are covered by Medicaid recognizing that almost 86% of those covered are people of color. The current CON application states patients covered by Medicaid comprise only 5% of the total cardiology visits.

Illinois hospitals provide billions of dollars in charity care annually and take care of all patients regardless of their ability to pay and 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. The increased patient access referenced in several letters of support for this project will not be gained by the Medicaid or uninsured population. Instead, this entity appears to 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.

Not paid for at Taxpayers' Expense.



2100 E. Lawrence, Springfield, IL 62703 • Tel: 217-544-0517 • Fax: 217-544-0520
E-Mail: senatorturner48@gmail.com

I believe that the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board prioritizes equity, fairness, and quality of care for patients. Accordingly, I encourage you to carefully review Springfield Clinic's request for cardiac catheterization services and if you find that these priorities are not being met - deny the application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doris Turner".

Doris Turner
State Senator

cc: John Kniery
