

ILLINOIS STATE SENATE

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COMMITTEES:

- Assignments
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KIMBERLY A. LIGHTFORD
SENATE MAJORITY LEADER · 4th DISTRICT

June 28, 2023

Mr. Kenneth Burnett, Ms. Antoinette Hardy-Waller and
Members of the 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
Catherization: Rescinding Letter of Opposition

Dear Mr. Burnett, Ms. Hardy-Waller, and Members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services
Review Board:

Last November I wrote to you expressing opposition to Springfield Clinic's Certificate of Need ("CON") application to establish cardiac catheterizations at the Springfield Clinic Ambulatory Surgery Center. This opposition was based on concerns that I had regarding health disparities in our community. Since that time, I have had the opportunity to meet with Springfield Clinic to better understand their mission and goals related to creating health equity within the communities they serve. It is with that understanding that I am writing to rescind my opposition to this application.

Springfield Clinic has accepted Medicaid since its inception in 1965. Over the past 30 years they have established a network of 15 Rural Health facilities throughout central Illinois that provide critical access to Medicaid patients who would otherwise be without healthcare in their communities. Over the past five years they have made it their mission to further expand the Medicaid services they provide. In 2022, Medicaid had grown to 15 percent of their overall patient population, which puts them at comparable levels to the hospitals in their region.

Additionally, in December 2022, Springfield Clinic was granted Medicaid certification for their Ambulatory Surgery Center and they are quickly growing to be one of the top independent providers of services in this setting state wide.

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Collectively these steps show more than just an understanding of how to tackle the problem of health equity in our community, it shows a willingness to face this challenge head on and set an example for other independent ASC's in Illinois, many of which don't accept any Medicaid at all. Addressing these issues takes a communal effort and to see a for-profit health care organization like Springfield Clinic taking this obligation seriously is encouraging and something that I will work with them on to ensure it persists.

Additionally, it is clear that CMS supports certain cardiac catheterization procedures in the outpatient setting as Springfield Clinic is proposing. They support not only on the basis that it's a safe place for patients to get high quality care, but the surgeries and procedures are done at a lower cost than a hospital setting which means that the obligation to a patient is lower and our state's Medicaid dollars go further.

For these collective reasons, I no longer have concerns about Medicaid patients being able to access these new cardiac catheterization services at Springfield Clinic and have no opposition to this project moving forward.

Sincerely,



Kimberly A. Lightford
Illinois Senate Majority Leader
State Senator | 4th District

Cc: John Kniery