

Ms. Debra Savage, Chair  
Illinois Health Facilities and Service Review Board  
525 West Jefferson Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Chairwoman Savage:

As a family medicine physician, I am writing in support of Springfield Clinic's application for a Certificate of Need to establish cardiac catheterization services at our surgery center in Springfield.

My support largely stems from my desire as a rural health physician to deliver the most timely, effective and safe care particularly for cardiac events where every minute matters. In a rural community like mine that can be especially difficult. This challenge has been magnified by the recent economic hardships many health care organizations are facing leading to significant staff reductions cutting off access points to care for patients and increasing wait times to dangerous levels.

As rural physicians throughout central Illinois, we work with local rural hospitals in many communities to do our best to maintain patient care locally and in a timely manner. In addition, Springfield Clinic has established a significant rural health program where specialists from various fields dedicate time traveling to patients in and around central Illinois for those who need and want care close to home.

I support Springfield Clinic establishing a cardiac catheterization lab at our Surgery Center in Springfield to provide immediate access for our rural cardiac patients to superior care quickly and at a lower cost.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Natalie Meyer MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and "M".