



A COMMUNITY OF CARING

www.SpringfieldClinic.com

Accredited by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Healthcare (AAAHC)

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

Dear Chairwoman Savage:

As an Internist, 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 outlying communities like Lincoln 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. Several of my patients have experienced this. By having access to cardiac care before it becomes an emergency, we are decreasing the burden on our local Emergency Departments and also decreasing costs associated with emergency vs non-emergency care.

As a rural physician in central Illinois, I work with my local rural hospital to do my 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 other fields dedicate time traveling to patients in and around central Illinois for those who need and want care close to home. This includes 3 cardiologists.

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 that reads "Melissa Cox MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Melissa Cox M.D. FACP FAAP