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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.

As a primary care provider for more than 25 years, delivering the most timely, effective and safe care, particularly for cardiac events where every minute matters, is of the utmost importance in medicine. The challenge to provide quality care 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.

Increasing access to these critical cardiac services means reducing wait times and catching dangerous cardiac situations sooner to ensure our patients get the preventative treatment before it becomes a major cardiac event like a heart attack. That is why it is important that we take this necessary step for medical care in our community.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark McKay, MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "M" and a distinct "MD" at the end.

Mark McKay, MD