



# Pana Community Hospital

September 7, 2023

Mr. John Kniery, Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Springfield Clinic—Springfield Surgery Center  
Establishment of Cardiac Catheterization—Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Kniery:

I write today in support of Springfield Clinic's application for a Certificate of Need to establish cardiac catheterization services at its Surgery Center in Springfield.

As the CEO of Pana Community Hospital, I am tasked with ensuring easily accessible care is available to all patients in our rural setting. Pana serves a population of 5,262, of which 36% are age 55+, the largest demographic for whom access to immediate cardiac care can be a matter of life or death.

Springfield Clinic's attempt to provide specialized cardiac catheterization care is critical now, given the delay in access we experience regularly when referring patients to Springfield for these services. The demand for catheterization procedures is increasing while access is shrinking. This is an untenable dynamic for our patients who currently face dangerously long wait times to receive this vital care.

For years, we have developed a deep collaborative relationship with Springfield Clinic where their providers travel to our hospital to work in partnership with our local care teams to provide safe, effective, and timely specialty services to patients in need. It is because of this unique partnership that we're confident in Springfield Clinic's ability to remove the access bottleneck that plagues cardiac catheterization patients in our community.

For all these reasons, I, on behalf of Pana Community Hospital, support Springfield Clinic establishing cardiac catheterization services at its Surgery Center in Springfield, and I strongly encourage you to support this effort as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Trina Casner  
President and CEO