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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Via Personal Delivery

Ms. Debra Savage, Chairwoman
IL Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: HSHS St. Mary's Hospital in Decatur / Support for Certificate of
Exemption Application for Discontinuation of Services

Dear Chairwoman Savage:

As an FQHC outpatient healthcare provider in the greater Macon County area, our mission is to provide comprehensive healthcare for the medically underserved. In order to effectively advance our mission, we rely on partnerships and collaborations with local hospitals in our community. HSHS St. Mary's Hospital is an important partner in ensuring the largely Medicaid population we serve can obtain hospital-based services when needed.

We are grateful for direct leadership communication regarding HSHS St. Mary's Hospital's thoughtful approach to modernize its facility and operations, invest back in the community and ensure that St. Mary's continues to be a respected facility in our community for years to come. This communication allows us to ensure ongoing care throughout this transition and identify any changes in referral patterns for our patients to guard against service disruptions.

We understand that as part of this process and because of major financial challenges and utilization, St. Mary's will file Certificate of Need ("CON") application for the discontinuation of obstetrical, inpatient behavioral health, pediatric and inpatient rehabilitation services. We will continue to work closely with leaders at St. Mary's hospital along with other care providers throughout our community to ensure that patients effected by these changes are redirected to service providers to meet their needs.

We are grateful that St. Mary's Hospital has plans to modernize the hospital facility with a \$90 million investment subject to your approval of an additional Certificate of Need ("CON") application to be filed later this calendar year which includes removal of an antiquated portion of its current facility replacing it with more modern facility. We also understand that impacted HSHS employees will be offered job opportunities within the hospital system.

We recognize and appreciate the ongoing commitment of HSHS St. Mary's Hospital to our region – certainly as evidenced by the \$90 million modernization investment – and support the need of the hospital to address its significant financial deficits to ensure its viability for current and future generations.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Andricks, RN, BSN, MHA
Crossing Healthcare CEO