

December 29, 2023

RE : Pain and Spine Surgery Center (Proj. No. 23-033)

Hello,

I write this letter of support for Pain & Spine Institute Surgery Center in its plans to establish a freestanding, lower cost surgery center in Joliet, Illinois through IDPH. Surgery centers provide a vital role in ensuring patient access to pain management in a quick, convenient, and affordable setting. Through my experience, I can say they provide very high-quality surgical care with excellent outcomes. They are also efficient and provide a high level of satisfaction all while saving both patients and insurance companies money. It is imperative for our state planning agencies to continue to ensure that facilities are available where lower cost invasive care is provided to meet the constant demand of pain management.

I have been a patient of Pain & Spine Institute for the last fifteen years. In that time, I have seen the practice grow as their reputation for great care has been established in the community. I personally work as a full-time professional firefighter in a neighboring city. I hold the rank of Lieutenant and am in my 25th year of what has been a rewarding career. As you may know, my profession is extremely physically demanding. The fire service at an alarming rate losses firefighters yearly due to back injuries. The cervical and lumbar issues I have developed, though serious and painful, are not indicative of surgery. As my issues worsened, I started my search for adequate treatment. Pain & Spine Institute not only saved my career but made it possible not to retire earlier than expected.

I wholeheartedly support and ask that you approve The Joliet Pain & Spine Institute Surgery Center's certificate of need application for a limited specialty surgery center. This will enable them to continue to help people such as myself with debilitating chronic pain cope easier with their day to day lives and simple activities.

Sincerely,

Juan Gomez Jr.

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