

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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DAN CAULKINS
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August 1, 2023

Via Personal Delivery

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

RECEIVED

AUG 08 2023

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Re: Request Approval of HSHS St. Mary's Hospital (Decatur) Certificate of Need Application
for \$89 Million Modernization Project

Dear Chairwoman Savage:

I support HSHS St. Mary's CON application to invest \$89 million to modernize its facilities and services.

After recently touring the hospital and meeting with Theresa Rutherford, president and CEO of St. Mary's, I understand the needs and appreciate the hospital's continued investment in the community.

The modernization plan includes: (a) adding four new, substantially larger operating rooms; (b) modernizing pre- and post-surgery areas; (c) upgrading technology and equipment; (d) restructuring the hospital layout and operations flow to minimize delays in patient surgeries; (e) consolidating administrative offices into a centralized location; and (f) removing the east wing of the hospital to right-size the facility.

Multiple aspects of this modernization can be completed simultaneously prior to removal of the east wing – ensuring HSHS St. Mary's can continue to prioritize high-quality patient care and safety during the modernization. The plans by St. Mary's are very practical and forward-looking; allowing St. Mary's to continue serving the residents of the 88th District.

This modernization reflects the best utilization of St. Mary's for the aging and declining population while affording flexibility in the event another pandemic hits the area. This \$89 million investment will ensure the hospital remains a strong member of the Decatur community, and I support approval of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Caulkins".

Representative Dan Caulkins
Illinois House, 88th District