



October 24, 2023

Ms. Debra Savage, Chairwoman
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

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

Re: Letter of Support

For Certificate of Need Project 23-037
OSF St. Joseph Medical Center Bed Expansion

Dear Ms. Savage and Mr. Kniery:

I am writing in support of the proposed project at OSF St. Joseph Medical Center (SJMC) in Bloomington to add 15 ICU and 10 medical/surgical beds.

OSF St. Joseph Medical Center plays a significant role as a referral center for hospitals and other health care providers in Central Illinois. In the past three years, St. Mary Medical Center has referred 135 patients to SJMC, and Holy Family Medical Center has referred 41 patients to SJMC. Many of these referrals enabled patients to receive specialized services that are either not provided at our hospitals, or because our hospitals were at capacity and beds/staffing were not available. SJMC has been accommodating our requests when they had available beds to provide the level of care needed for our patients. On occasion SJMC was at capacity and unable to accommodate referrals, which is testimony to their need for additional beds.

I urge the Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve this project at its meeting on December 5, 2023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. DeKezel".

Lisa DeKezel, MJ, BSN, RN
President / Chief Executive Officer
St. Mary Medical Center, Galesburg
Holy Family Medical Center, Monmouth

CC: Lynn A. Fulton, President, OSF St. Joseph Medical Center
Mark Hohulin, Senior Vice President, Healthcare Analytics, OSF Healthcare System