



**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
ROCKFORD**

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John P. Kniery
Board Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Rockford Gastroenterology Associates (RGA) Endoscopy Center CON Application

Dear Mr. Kniery,

My name is Dr. Alex Stagnaro-Green, Regional Dean at the University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford (UICOMR) Campus. I have served as Regional Dean at UICOMR since 2014. We have faculty who teach medical students at Rockford Gastroenterology Associates, as well as at facilities that RGA serves: UW Health Hospital and OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center, both located in Rockford, Illinois.

There is no doubt that the physicians at RGA provide outstanding gastroenterology services. They always say yes to the medical consultant regardless of the patient's ability to pay. In addition, they provide excellent care for the community and training for our medical students.

I believe that transitioning low acuity patients out of the hospital to an outpatient setting is better for the patients, better for the community, and will lower healthcare costs. There is no shortage of patients that require hospital-based care, and surgery centers create more capacity for patients who need the hospital.

Therefore, I am in support of the proposed project to modernize the existing facility and expand the number of endoscopy rooms from 4 to 6 rooms. This model has proven to be successful in Rockford, and will benefit the community and region greatly. This new facility will help stabilize the digestive disease service line in Rockford and the surrounding region and strengthen the gastroenterology safety net. I support their application and ask the Health Facilities and Services Review Board to do the same.

Best,

Alex Stagnaro-Green, MD, MHPE, MHA
Regional Dean
University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford