

May 31, 2024

Debra Savage, Chair
Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Beloit Health Systems Proposed Neighborhood Hospital Development for
Roscoe

Dear Chair Savage,

I am honored to submit this letter of support for the proposed Neighborhood Hospital project for the NorthPointe Health & Wellness Campus.

I have recently retired as the Fire Chief of the Harlem Roscoe Fire Protection District. Over the past 15 years of being the Fire Chief, our fire protection district has seen and continues to go through substantial growth. Every year this growth has increased the demand for emergency services. At the time of my retirement, we were experiencing 12 to 15 calls a day with 82% of them being medical. At any given time one of our three staffed ALS ambulances can be out of service on a call for two hours as we transport to one of three hospitals located in Rockford or Beloit. It is not uncommon to have all three ambulances out simultaneously on calls at any given time. As we all know, time can be, and in some cases have a large impact on patient treatment and a positive outcome. The opportunity granted to have a facility of this type in our district could have a direct result in reducing transport times along with keeping our ambulances in the district which will also benefit our residents by allowing a quicker response to address their medical needs.

The Beloit Healthcare system is a system that has embraced a strong focus on wellness and patient-centered care which is truly commendable. By prioritizing preventive care, holistic well-being, and empowering patients to be active participants in their health journey, such a system demonstrates a deep commitment to improving overall community health outcomes.

I hope that the State of Illinois' Health Facilities Planning Review Board will approve this important project to allow for a Neighborhood Hospital on the NorthPointe Campus with the ability to include a 24-Hour Emergency Department.

Keeping our residents who utilize Beloit Memorial Hospital in Wisconsin in Illinois for their care at the NorthPointe Campus will reduce their need to travel outside of their hometowns. It would also make it easier for their loved ones to visit them.

NorthPointe is a strong community supporter; their presence here continues to be good for both local business and our customers. I believe that having a Neighborhood Hospital on the NorthPointe Campus would benefit us locally.

The center would also create new jobs in the community.

I urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve the NorthPointe proposal.

Respectfully,

Donald R. Shoevlin

Chief Donald Shoevlin (ret.)