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June 21, 2024

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

Re: Project 24-018, NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital, Roscoe, Illinois

Dear Chair Savage,

As a rheumatologist practicing in the stateline community, I am writing to express my strong support for the NorthPointe Health & Wellness Neighborhood Hospital project. In my specialty, I treat patients with complex chronic conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, and other autoimmune diseases. These patients often require frequent and comprehensive healthcare services that are easily accessible and well-coordinated.

NorthPointe currently offers an impressive array of services, including a medically integrated fitness center, immediate care facilities, diagnostic and treatment centers, an ambulatory surgery center, a birthing center, physician offices, and an assisted living center. This integrated approach to healthcare is vital for my patients, who need regular monitoring and multidisciplinary care to manage their chronic conditions effectively.

With the rising prevalence of autoimmune diseases and associated complications in our community, there is an urgent need for expanded resources to address the increasing demand for emergency and inpatient care. The proposal by Beloit Health System for a neighborhood hospital is a thoughtful and necessary expansion that aims to meet these critical healthcare needs.

I have reviewed the proposal and am particularly impressed by the emphasis on evidence-based practices and patient-centered care. The expansion of inpatient and emergency services will provide my patients with better access to comprehensive and timely care, which is essential for managing their conditions and improving their quality of life. I strongly urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve this proposal, as it will significantly enhance healthcare delivery in our region.

Regards,

Dimitrios Fanopoúlos, MD

Rheumatologist

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