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JAY C. HOFFMAN
ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 113TH DISTRICT

October 2, 2024

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

RE: Opposition to Proposed NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital

Dear Chairwoman Savage:

I am writing to oppose Beloit Health System, Inc.'s proposed NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital in Winnebago County, Illinois. While the addition of a new hospital might sound beneficial, I have learned that the proposed facility will ultimately have a negative impact on healthcare access in that community, and I am writing today because of the dangerous precedent this would set for out-of-state hospitals looking to funnel Illinois resources out of our communities.

Beloit Health System makes clear in its application for the proposed micro hospital that it will operate as a "remote location" of the larger facility in Beloit, Wisconsin. To open a facility that is unequipped to treat the full needs of the acute patient population as a smaller component of a larger hospital clearly means that patients will need to transfer to the larger facility – and I have little doubt that these patients will be sent out of state and straight to Wisconsin.

This project targets an overwhelmingly white, young, and affluent demographic through the promise of a micro hospital that will ultimately channel the commercial payer mix associated with this demographic out of the state. This hurts the Illinois facilities that rely on a diverse payor mix to offset the cost of care delivery for poor and underserved patients in their communities. If this project is allowed to proceed, Illinois may find itself subject to additional efforts by out-of-state healthcare systems to poach patients and resources from our local communities for the benefit of their bottom lines rather than our communities.

As a representative of another state boarder community within Illinois, this project is especially important to me and my constituents. I strongly urge you to oppose the creation of a new hospital and instead focus on strengthening and supporting our existing healthcare facilities.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay C. Hoffman".

Jay C. Hoffman
State Representative | 113th District