



September 3, 2025

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

Re: Project 24-018 Support Letter

Dear Mr. Kniery:

On behalf of Blackhawk Technical College, I am writing to express support for Beloit Health System's proposal to establish a neighborhood hospital in Roscoe, IL. At Blackhawk Technical College (BTC), we are deeply committed to preparing the next generation of healthcare professionals to meet the needs of our region. Our longstanding collaboration with Beloit Health System (BHS) has been central to that mission. Through initiatives such as CareerTek, where we train Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) in partnership with BHS, and through clinical placements across all of our health programs, our students gain critical, hands-on experience that prepares them to excel in their chosen fields. Our partnership continues to grow as we are engaging with BHS to provide Medical Direction for the BTC's Emergency Medical Service programs and are creating a work-based nursing program that assimilates BHS workers into BTC's nursing program.

The commitment to workforce development doesn't stop here. BHS's leadership has been crucial for the development of our new Respiratory Therapy program. By providing the expertise of their Lead Respiratory Therapist, the College is successfully navigating the initial accreditation phase of the program. These types of partnerships not only provide invaluable training opportunities but also help to close the workforce gap in healthcare, ensuring that our community has access to highly skilled, compassionate caregivers now and in the years ahead. The proposed neighborhood hospital represents an extension of this shared commitment, bringing high-quality, accessible care closer to where people live, while also strengthening the training pipeline for future healthcare professionals.

We believe this project will benefit both patients and providers, supporting the long-term health and vitality of our region. Blackhawk Technical College is proud to collaborate with Beloit Health System, and we look forward to continuing to work together to ensure a strong healthcare workforce and quality healthcare access for our community. Thank you for your consideration of this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Tracy P. Pierner, Ph.D.
President
Blackhawk Technical College

Office of the President

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