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JOHN M. CABELLO
ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 90TH DISTRICT

Letter of Support for the NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital Addressed to the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

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

RE: NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital (Project No. 24-018),

Dear Chair Savage and members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board:

As the representative for the 90th District in the Illinois House of Representatives, which includes the communities of Rockton, Roscoe, South Beloit, and Freeport, I write to express my unequivocal support for the modified proposal to expand the NorthPointe Health and Wellness campus into a Neighborhood Hospital. This crucial project will bring essential emergency room services and inpatient care to our community.

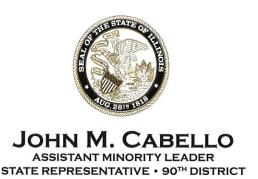
I firmly believe that objections previously made to this proposal have been soundly answered by this proposal modification, ensuring the project will benefit the state of Illinois, health care institutions in Illinois, and Illinoisans who want to receive care in Illinois. I urge support of this proposal, on the basis of its merits and this modification.

With over three decades of experience in law enforcement, I serve as the ranking member of my party on both the House Public Safety – Appropriations Committee and the House Police & Fire Committee. This background has instilled in me a deep understanding of the critical importance of rapid emergency response. The safety and security of our communities are of the utmost importance to me, and that is why I am in strong support of the NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital project.

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To me, the decision to approve this facility should be based solely on what's best for the families that live here, not on external factors or competing interests. Every minute less that a member of Rockton, Roscoe or South Beloit communities has to travel to get emergency care is a better chance at their lives being saved or their health improving. I served as a police officer in South Beloit, and I know these communities well. We should not have to send individuals in need up to Wisconsin for hospitalization or south by another 20 to 30 minutes to hospitals that are not able to accommodate more patients.

When someone calls 9-1-1, I know what it is to answer that call. Families should not have to sit and wait for emergency care while our ambulances are tied up making longer round-trip drives out of the area. At the same time, any individual in need deserves the right to decide what hospital or hospital system they choose to utilize. That's important.

The NorthPointe complex is already doing a lot of good work here, and many people are getting good care close to home. I want to see more of that. This micro-hospital concept is appropriately sized for the region's needs and is certainly small enough not to unduly impact hospitals from other regions. It is my opinion that we should support this investment in our communities and their health and safety. I ask that you join me and more than one thousand people who have signed petitions and letters in support of this proposal. Please listen to the people who live here – it's their lives and health at stake.

The proposed NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital project is not just a healthcare initiative; it's a vital investment in the safety and well-being of our citizens, and it should be approved by the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board.

Best Regards,

John M. Cabello

Assistant Minority Leader

State Representative - 90th District

of fall