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KAM BUCKNER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
26TH HOUSE DISTRICT

October 4, 2024

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 and members of the IHFSRB,

I am writing to share my opposition to Beloit Health System, Inc.'s proposed small format NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital in Winnebago County, Illinois.

The IHRSRB is well aware of the challenges facing hospitals throughout our great state. I strongly believe that the proposed small format hospital will only add to the burden of our existing facilities while not providing commensurate benefit to the surrounding community. As I understand the proposal, in fact, the majority of the benefit garnered would go to Wisconsin as patients are transferred to the proposed hospital's main campus in Beloit and the design of this project is to address issues with a hospital located in Wisconsin.

In representing my district, I am familiar with the need for safety-net service providers to maintain a robust payer mix that can help offset the below cost reimbursement that these hospitals receive in providing care to our most vulnerable populations. Beloit Health System's application indicates that they plan to facilitate transfers of higher acuity patients who arrive at

their Roscoe, Illinois location to Beloit, Wisconsin, thus redirecting the commercial payer mix associated with this demographic out of the state. This will undermine the diverse payor mix relied upon by existing hospitals in the area to offset the cost of care delivery for poor and underserved patients in their communities. I fear that if existing facilities see detrimental changes to their existing payer mix, we face a real risk that these higher acuity safety net providers in our community could be forced to close programs and facilities that patients rely upon.

As such, I urge the Review Board to oppose this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kam Buckner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kam" being more prominent than the last name "Buckner".

Kam Buckner
Illinois House of State Representatives
Assistant Majority Leader
26th District