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MAURICE A. WEST II
STATE REPRESENTATIVE | 67TH DISTRICT

September 17, 2024

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

Dear Chair Debra Savage, Rex Budde, Kenneth Burnett, David Fox, Antoinette Hardy-Waller, Monica Hendrickson, David Katz, Gary Kaatz, Monica LeGrand, Dr. Audrey Tanksley, & Administrator John P. Kniery,

I hope this letter finds you all doing well. 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, it will ultimately have a negative impact on healthcare in northern Illinois.

Beloit Health System's proposed project does not help the poor, minority, or older demographic. Instead, it targets higher income patients in Roscoe and Rockton with the expectation of transfer to Beloit Memorial Hospital, and potentially to Madison, Wisconsin. This will only hurt the existing facilities in this region that rely on a diverse payor mix to offset the cost of care delivery for poor and underserved patients throughout Winnebago County and undercut their ability to serve the community and their missions.

Adding a new hospital to the area will also further stress the professional workforce. Many hospitals, clinics, and skilled care facilities throughout the area have already reduced services or closed due to staffing issues. If this new hospital is allowed to move forward, it will make it harder for current facilities to continue to provide or grow existing services and the permanent jobs such services provide to the community.

Beloit Health System has proposed NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital will serve individuals within a 17-mile geographic service area. This is unrealistic, as this 17-mile service area goes up to Janesville, Wisconsin, and the south side of Rockford, past the I39-I90 Interchange. Many of these residents would not have the means or desire to travel that far for care when there are so many closer options. There are already seven hospitals in this area, including two Level 1 Trauma Centers and one Level 2 Trauma Center. The proposal also cited an excess of 94 medical surgical beds in the Illinois service area, clearly indicating that additional beds are not needed. Additionally, there are eight emergency departments, with a ninth under construction, as well as thirteen urgent care/immediate care/prompt care centers already providing care in this 17-mile area.

With these points in mind, I strongly urge you to oppose the creation of a new hospital and instead focus on strengthening and supporting our existing healthcare facilities. By doing so, we can ensure all the patients in our communities, regardless of demographics, receive high-quality care.

With kind regards to the both of you and the constituents we serve, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Maurice A. West II", is written over a blue horizontal line.

Maurice A. West II
State Representative | 67th District