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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

9.27.2024

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

Dear Chair Savage and Members of the HFSRB Board:

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express opposition to Beloit Health System, Inc's ("BHS") proposed NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital in Winnebago County, Illinois.

As a physician who has been practicing in this area for seven, there is no doubt this project will negatively impact healthcare delivery and reduce the affordability of healthcare in Winnebago County.

I oppose this project for several reasons, including the duplication of services that already exist in the community, the likelihood of increasing healthcare costs, and destabilizing patient safety. There is no evidence to support their predicted emergency department admissions, which raises serious questions about where their patient volumes will come from. With seven (7) hospitals in the area there is no need for another facility that will only seek to poach patients from other area facilities.

Beloit Health System already offers urgent care services, ambulatory surgeries, and a birthing center at its NorthPointe campus. By becoming a "hospital" this will only increase costs to patients as the facility ramps up minimum standards, life safety code, and hospital services which are required by state and federal law. The cost of this \$20 million renovation will be passed down to patients through billing and more expensive care. As a physician, my priority is providing the appropriate medical care for the patient wherever he/she needs it. This proposed hospital would only blur the lines between appropriate healthcare venues, leaving patients confused about where to turn to when healthcare needs arise. Even worse, many patients arriving at the proposed emergency room would need to be transferred to higher-level care facilities at other hospitals or across the state border to Beloit Memorial Hospital.

Given these concerns, I strongly urge you to oppose the establishment of a new hospital. There are many options available to improve healthcare access, improve healthcare affordability, and enhance patient outcomes. This proposal achieves none of those goals.

Thank you for your consideration.

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