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ILLINOIS STATE SENATE
STEVE STADELMAN
STATE SENATOR • 34TH DISTRICT

February 13, 2025

Debra Savage, Chairwoman
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,

Last year, I submitted a letter objecting to Beloit Health System, Inc.'s plan to build NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital in Winnebago County, Illinois. I expressed my suspicion that not only is the facility unnecessary, but its addition would harm existing healthcare systems in our community.

Comments, testimony and concerns raised by members of the Review Board at its October 2024 meeting and reinforces my own doubts about this proposal. Chief among my fears is that this Wisconsin-based provider is eyeing higher-income patients in the Roscoe and Rockton areas with the intention of transferring them to Beloit Memorial Hospital or Madison, Wisconsin. Such a strategy would come at the expense of Rockford's three primary health systems by increasing their proportion of lower-income patients, many of whom are likely to be minorities and older along with being uninsured or underinsured.

I'm also not convinced of the professed need for more hospital beds in the area, in which case NorthPointe only would serve to duplicate services. We must instead focus on ensuring the continued viability of our existing, full-service hospitals, those that are best equipped to meet a wide range of medical needs and to serve as safety nets for our most vulnerable populations.

If new hospitals are approved, they should meet a demonstrated patient need that is otherwise lacking. Based on the information presented so far, NorthPointe appears to do neither, so I remain opposed and urge the Review Board to continue to be skeptical.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Stadelman".

Steve Stadelman
State Senator, 34th District