

February 20, 2025

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board 525 W. Jefferson Street, 2<sup>ND</sup> floor Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Members of the Board:

On behalf of OSF HealthCare, I am writing to share our decision not to request a public hearing regarding Project No. 24-018 and to outline our reasoning.

OSF HealthCare previously opposed this project, and the CON Board issued an intent to deny it in October 2024. Although the project has been resubmitted with new information, there are no material changes to the substance of the proposal. Given the lack of any significant updates, a second public hearing is not indicated.

A public hearing was already conducted in August 2024, and OSF participated. With no substantial differences in the resubmission, there is no need to impose the additional burden of another public hearing on the CON staff, the CON Board, or the public.

That said, OSF HealthCare remains firmly opposed to this project. As noted previously, our opposition is based on the following concerns:

- The unnecessary duplication of services.
- Increased healthcare costs without a corresponding improvement in access or outcomes.
- Potential risks to patient safety.
- Threats to the stability of the Illinois healthcare market, particularly the underserved population.
- Worsening the already critical challenges faced by the professional healthcare workforce in the region.

We will continue to articulate these concerns in opposition letters submitted ahead of the deadline and plan to present prepared comments at the March 18th open session.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We remain committed to ensuring that the healthcare needs of our communities are met responsibly and sustainably.

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Sincerely,

August Querciagrossa

OSF Western Region Chief Executive Officer