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**DAVE VELLA**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
ILLINOIS 68TH DISTRICT

September 20, 2024

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

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

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my opposition to Beloit Health System, Inc.'s proposed NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital in Winnebago County, Illinois. This project stands to result in significant negative consequences for the Illinois health care facilities and jeopardizes patient care.

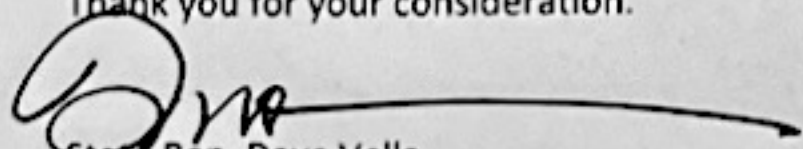
I am concerned that the Beloit Health System's proposed new hospital will stress the resources of our current facilities. Beloit Health System, based in Wisconsin, jeopardizes the ability of our Northern Illinois health systems to serve our community by targeting the higher income patients in Roscoe and Rockton, with the expectation of transferring them across the state line to Beloit Memorial Hospital or Madison, Wisconsin. Existing health care facilities in this region rely on a diverse payor mix to be able to offset the care delivery necessary for the poor and underserved throughout Winnebago County. Beloit Health System's proposal will disrupt this payer mix, reducing the resources available to serve our communities especially the uninsured and underinsured. Further, staffing continues to be a concern for health care facilities around the region, with many having to reduce services or close altogether. The introduction of a new hospital will further stretch the professional workforce, putting an additional strain on our current facilities.

Beloit Health System's proposed hospital is unnecessary. Not only are there already seven hospitals in the proposed service area, including two Level 1 Trauma Centers and one Level 2 Trauma Center, but there are also eight emergency departments, with a ninth under construction, as well as thirteen urgent care/immediate care/prompt care centers. There is also an existing excess of medical-surgical beds in the service area – additional beds that pull from the limited resources available to our existing Illinois hospitals is not a benefit to our communities.

NorthPointe already offers urgent care services, a birthing center and ambulatory surgeries. Licensing this facility as a "hospital" while maintaining the current level of services will unnecessarily increase costs to patients, insurance companies, and the state and the federal government. As a hospital, their current rates would increase when the services can continue to be provided in a more affordable, outpatient setting.

Considering these concerns, I strongly urge you to oppose the new hospital and instead support the existing healthcare infrastructure. By investing in the expansion and improvement of our current healthcare facilities, we can ensure that patients receive high-quality care without risking patient safety, increasing healthcare costs, or destabilizing the Illinois healthcare market.

Thank you for your consideration.

  
State Rep. Dave Vella  
Illinois 68<sup>th</sup> District

Enclosure: Map

## Hospitals near NorthPointe

### Beloit Memorial Hospital

From NorthPointe: **16 minutes/11.1 miles**

### Mercyhealth (Javon Bea Hospital, just off I-90)

Level 1 Trauma Center

From NorthPointe: **15 minutes/11.7 miles**

### OSF St. Anthony

Level 1 Trauma Center

From NorthPointe: **23 minutes/17.1 miles**

### UW Health (Swedes)

Level 2 Trauma Center

From NorthPointe: **29 minutes/15.4 miles**

### UW Health (Swedes) Belvidere Hospital

From NorthPointe: **26 minutes/23 miles**

## Additional Emergency Services

### Mercyhealth Beloit

Multi-specialty Clinic

New free-standing ED opening 2025

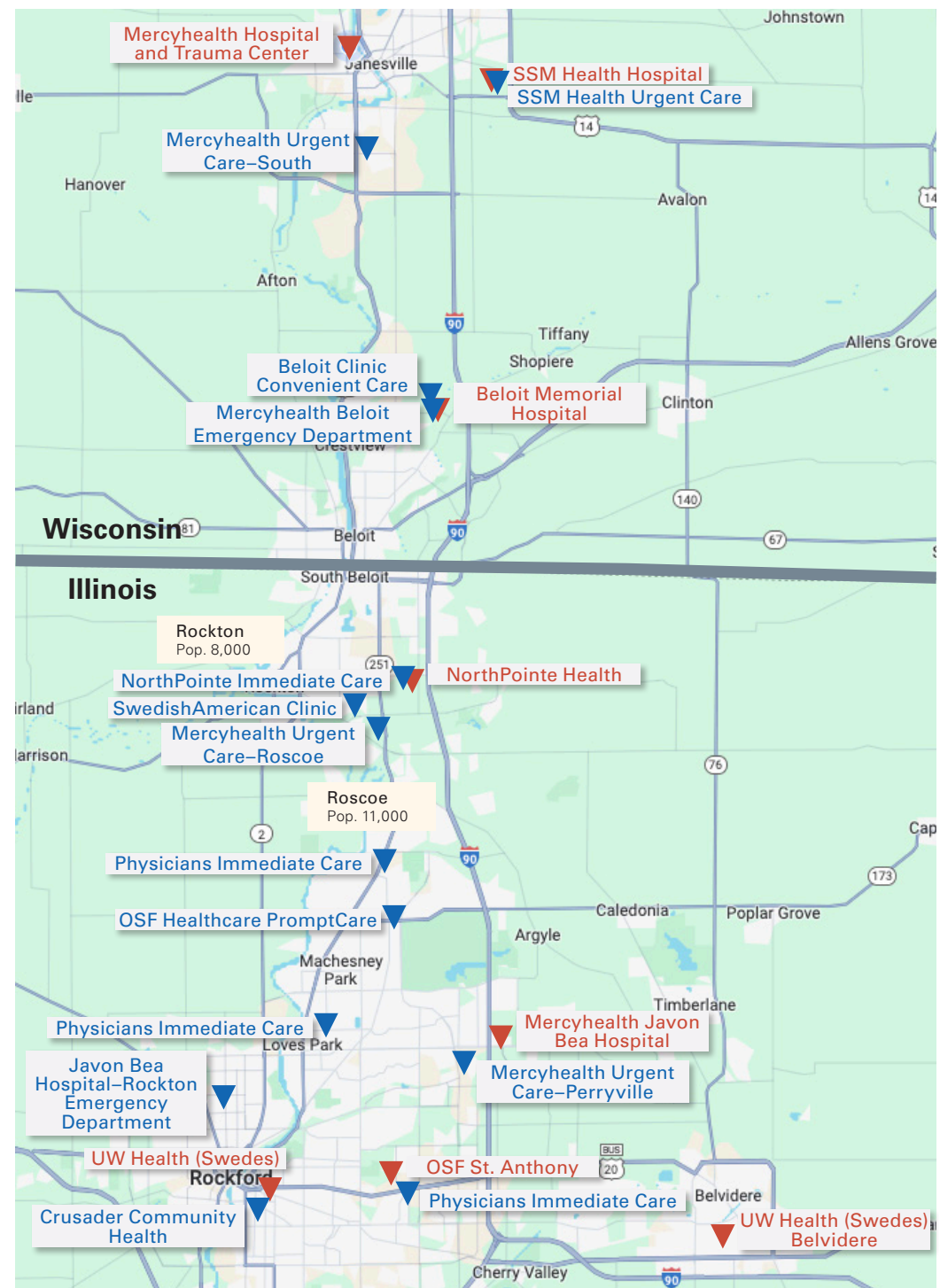
From Northpointe: **16 minutes/11.4 miles**

### Mercyhealth Roscoe

24/7 Urgent Care staffed by board certified emergency medicine physicians

From NorthPointe: 6 minutes/2.5 miles

From Javon Bea Hospital: **17 minutes/11.8 miles**



**22 Emergency Departments and Urgent Cares**  
within a 17-mile patient catchment area