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JOHN M. CABELLO
ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE - 90TH DISTRICT

RECEIVED

OCT 09 2024

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

October 8, 2024

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

RE: NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital (Proj. No. 24-018)

Dear Chair Savage and members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board:

As the representative for the 90th District in the Illinois House of Representatives, I write to express my unequivocal support for the expansion of NorthPointe Health and Wellness campus into a Neighborhood Hospital. This crucial project will bring essential emergency room services and inpatient care to our community.

With over three decades of experience in law enforcement, I serve as the Republican Spokesperson of both the House Public Safety – Appropriations Committee and the House Police & Fire Committee. This background has instilled in me a deep understanding of the critical importance of rapid emergency response. The safety and security of our communities are of the utmost importance to me, which is why I strongly support the Northpointe Neighborhood Hospital project. I genuinely believe having access to an emergency room directly in town will save lives. In emergency situations, the difference between life and death can be measured in seconds. By providing emergency care within our community, we significantly increase the chances of saving lives and improving health outcomes for our residents.

The decision to approve this facility should be based solely on what's best for the families that live here, not on external factors or competing interests. Every minute less that a member of Rockton, Roscoe or South Beloit communities has to travel to get emergency care is a better chance at their lives being saved or their health improving. I served as a police officer in South Beloit, and I know these communities well. We should not have to send individuals in need up to Wisconsin for hospitalization or south by another 20 to 30 minutes to hospitals that are not able to accommodate more patients. In advancing its proposal, NorthPointe has included data showing that outmigration to Wisconsin for inpatient care has more than doubled in just the last few years. We have the resources to meet the need here with the NorthPointe expansion proposal.

When someone calls 9-1-1, I know what it is to answer that call. Families should not have to sit and wait for emergency care while our ambulances are tied up, making longer round-trip drives out of the area. At the same time, individuals in need deserve the right to decide what hospital or hospital system they utilize. That's important.

NorthPointe is already providing excellent care to the Stateline Community. This expansion will enhance their ability to do more to serve our community. This micro-hospital concept is appropriately sized for the region's needs and, indeed, small enough to not unduly impact hospitals from other regions. The State of Illinois should support this investment in our communities and their health and safety. I ask that you join me and more than

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one thousand people who have signed petitions and letters in support and approval of this proposal. Please listen to the people who live here – it's their lives and health at stake.

The proposed NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital project is not just a healthcare initiative; it's a vital investment in the safety and well-being of our citizens, and it should be approved by the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John M. Cabello". The signature is stylized with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping underline.

John M. Cabello
Assistant Minority Leader
State Representative – 90th District