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ANDREW S. CHESNEY
STATE SENATOR • 45TH DISTRICT

RECEIVED

OCT 09 2024

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

October 9, 2024

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

RE: NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital, Project 24-018

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

As the State Senator representing the 45th Senate District, I wholeheartedly endorse the NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital project and ask the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board members to vote in favor of the project. This initiative is not merely a proposal; it's a vital step towards enhancing healthcare accessibility and quality for our community.

My Senate district is home to over 200,000 residents, many of whom reside along the state line. They deserve a healthcare system that matches their needs and aspirations. As both a public servant and a small business owner, I understand the critical importance of ensuring safe, thriving communities, fostering economic development, promoting consumer choice, and maintaining a competitive market.

The NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital project aligns perfectly with these objectives, promising to attract more medical professionals, stimulate investment, and create opportunities in our region, which is currently classified as having a health professional shortage.

It is crucial to recognize that competition in healthcare is not a future prospect—it's our present reality. The NorthPointe Health and Wellness campus, operational since 2007, has been providing essential care and specialized services to Illinoisans for years. The proposed expansion to include emergency services and inpatient beds is a logical and necessary progression.

Key benefits of the expansion include:

- Ability to accept ambulances
- Provision of comprehensive emergency care
- Improved health outcomes for local residents

This project proposes a micro-hospital with only ten beds—a modest addition that addresses a significant need. Please consider that last year, 26,000 Winnebago County residents sought care in Wisconsin hospitals. The proposed facility would help retain Illinois patients within the state. The project's scale ensures minimal disruption to the existing healthcare landscape.

The NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital offers a cost-effective solution to our healthcare needs, in that it:

1. Utilizes existing infrastructure, reducing renovation costs
2. Introduces healthy competition, potentially lowering patient costs, and
3. Improves efficiency of care delivery.

The NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital project represents a crucial opportunity to enhance healthcare access, stimulate economic growth, and meet the expressed needs of our community. I implore all stakeholders to support this initiative, which promises to deliver improved health outcomes and economic benefits to the 45th Senate District and beyond. Let us embrace progress and ensure that our healthcare system evolves to serve all Illinoisans effectively.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew Chesney".

Andrew Chesney
State Senator — 45th District