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June 25, 2024

Ms. Debra Savage Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board 525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Project 24-018, NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital, Roscoe, Illinois

Dear Chair Savage,

I am writing to advocate for the approval of Beloit Health System's proposed neighborhood hospital. As a cardiothoracic surgeon on the medical staff of Beloit Memorial Hospital, I have gained a comprehensive understanding of our healthcare landscape and the pressing need for expanded emergency and inpatient services to meet the increasing demands of the Stateline communities.

The nature of cardiothoracic conditions, including heart disease, lung disorders, and thoracic trauma, often requires urgent evaluation and treatment to mitigate complications and ensure optimal patient outcomes. Emergency rooms serve as crucial hubs for initial assessment, stabilization, and diagnostic imaging, which are essential for effective cardiothoracic intervention. Time is of the essence in treating conditions like heart attacks, where rapid intervention can mean the difference between life and death.

Furthermore, emergency rooms play a vital role as gateways for patients presenting with acute cardiothoracic conditions who may not have immediate access to primary care providers or specialized cardiothoracic care. By providing timely evaluation and intervention, my Emergency Medicine colleagues contribute significantly to reducing morbidity, restoring function, and enhancing patient satisfaction. This seamless collaboration ensures a continuum of care, enabling timely transition to specialized cardiothoracic services when necessary.

I recognize the critical importance of expanding emergency services to improve healthcare delivery across our community. Approving this CON will optimize patient outcomes and elevate the standard of healthcare in the Stateline area. Therefore, I urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve the NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital CON permit application, Project 24-018.

Thank you for considering the urgent need for this initiative to save lives and improve healthcare accessibility in our community.

Sincerely,

Hilton Hudson II, MD Cardiothoracic Surgeon

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