

24-032

Georgia Costello, Ph.D.
Belleville, Illinois

September 16, 2024

Via Personal Delivery

Ms. Debra Savage, Chairwoman
Illinois Health Facilities & Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RECEIVED

SEP 30 2024

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Re: CON Application of HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital / Proposed
New Ambulatory Surgical Treatment Center and Medical Office Building

Dear Chairwoman Savage,

I am a lifelong resident of the Metro East region of Illinois, with a long career in education – including service as President of Southwestern Illinois College and Assistant Regional Superintendent in St. Claire County. I have deep ties to my community. I come from a family of prominent public servants in our area, and among my volunteer roles has been serving on the board of HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital (SEO). It is with that context that I enthusiastically support construction of a new medical office building (MOB) and ambulatory surgical treatment center (ASTC) on the SEO campus in O'Fallon and urge your approval of this CON application.

This project is good for our region.

Regarding the ASTC, state utilization reports from 2023 document for SEO a 120.85% operating room utilization rate – with target utilization being 80%. SEO wishes to address this overutilization through a new ASTC spanning 20,000 square feet and containing four operating rooms and two procedure rooms. The CON application demonstrates that the patient referrals required to justify this capital expenditure will come from SEO volume and not from other hospitals or ASTCs in the service area. By addressing its operating room capacity needs through an ASTC rather than hospital expansion, SEO will be able to serve its surgical patients more affordably on an outpatient basis.

Regarding the MOB, the existing medical office building on the SEO campus is fully occupied, and area medical office buildings are likewise at or near capacity. Tenants for this new MOB will not come from other medical office buildings in the region, but rather through expansions by current SEO tenants and relocations of new specialty care providers now practicing outside the service area. This new MOB will enable SEO to locally deliver more specialized healthcare to southwestern Illinois residents.

This envisioned \$54 million investment by SEO will also bring additional employment and economic activity to the area.

With SEO about to celebrate its seven-year anniversary in O'Fallon and 150th anniversary in the region, this investment ensures that SEO will remain a vital part of our local healthcare system for coming generations. I respectfully ask that you give this CON application your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Georgia Costello

Georgia Costello, Ph.D.

Signature: 
Georgia Costello (Sep 12, 2024 15:00 EDT)

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