

September 4, 2024

Hon. Debra Savage, Chairwoman  
IL Health Facilities & Service Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson Street, Second Floor  
Springfield, IL 62762

**RECEIVED**

**OCT 31 2024**

**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Re: Requested Approval of HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital (O'Fallon) Certificate of Need  
Application for \$54 Million Expansion Project

Dear Chairwoman Savage,

I support the pending CON application of HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital (SEO) to broaden its clinical bandwidth to meet community and market demands. Specifically, SEO plans to introduce a new medical office building and ambulatory surgery center that will bring new and cost-efficient opportunities for patients in southern Illinois to receive advanced care close to home.

My endorsement stems from SEO's steadfast commitment to providing the very best care to those who chose our hospital for care. I am proud of the fact that SEO consistently meets and exceeds their infection prevention and patient experience goals. Since 2022, SEO has exceeded all established goals as it relates to infection prevention and has maintained an overall patient experience rank score that exceeds the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile rank. These facts reflect SEO's discipline to meet evidence-based, clinical-and-operational best practices. Simply stated, SEO keeps its patients safe while delivering the highest quality care and utilizing the latest technologies. Endorsement of this project will only enhance the capabilities of SEO in making further favorable impacts within the healthcare environment here in southern Illinois.

My exposure to SEO began in 2022 when I was invited to serve on the Board of Directors, which I now chair. I can assure you that the degree of discernment the senior leadership, strategy, finance, and Board teams engaged in – prior to the filing of this CON application – is characteristic of a patient-centered system whose capital investments are solidly backed by data. The fact that our southwestern Illinois region presently loses 40% of its residents who need medical care to Missouri hospitals demonstrates that there is a significant unmet demand for more advanced surgical and physician clinical services within the primary and secondary service areas for SEO. From my experience as the past President of Northwestern Medicine Central DuPage Hospital, I very much understand market dynamics, data, and strategies that drive the evolution of healthcare services – all of which support your approval of this CON application.

After my healthcare service career ended, I chose to retire in this community. It is personally comforting to see the commitment of the Hospital Sisters Health System to this region I now call home. Approval of this CON application will keep healthcare close to home in southwestern Illinois and help assure that the needs of our community are met for years to come.

Sincerely,



Brian Lemon,  
HSHS Board Member  
209 Luca James Point  
O'Fallon, IL 62269