

September 9, 2024

Ms. Debra Savage
Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62762

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Re: Hospital Sisters Health System, St. Elizabeth's Hospital - O'Fallon, Illinois Project
Letter of Support

Dear Chairwoman Savage and Members of the Review Board:

I write this letter of support for the Hospital Sisters Health System's, St. Elizabeth Hospital's CON application to construct a free-standing medical office building (MOB) to include an ambulatory surgery center (ASC).

I serve on the St. Elizabeth's Hospital Board of Directors, and I am aware that this proposed ASC and MOB is strategically intended to address a real market need as we know that there are currently 40,000 patients who have gone without surgical care due to limited access in southern Illinois. Additionally, 2023 data demonstrates that current operating room utilization at St. Elizabeth's Hospital is 120.85%, compared against a target utilization rate of 80%. In an effort to improve our ability to retain appropriate health care in Illinois versus allowing clinical volumes to migrate to Missouri, I encourage the IHFSRB to take action in support of this CON request.

Extending beyond our efforts to keep care in Illinois, the introduction of an ASC and expanded MOB space on St. Elizabeth Hospital's campus will introduce new clinical specialists to the region and offer a lower cost entry point for surgical care. As a leading health care provider, St. Elizabeth's Hospital has a responsibility in improving consumer access, quality of care, and reducing the cost burden for patients and payor sources alike. With your endorsement, I assure you that we will accomplish these foundational expectations.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this project letter of support for Hospital Sisters Health System – St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

Sincerely,



Barbara Cempura
SEO Board Member
146 Hickory Lake
Belleville, Illinois 62223