

24-032

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE

September 16, 2024

Hon. Debra Savage, Chairperson
IL Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62762

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Dear Ms. Savage,

This letter is written in support of the Certificate of Need (CON) application, submitted by Hospital Sisters Health System (HSBS) to expand its clinical capacity with intent to provide patients and student populations a high-quality option for clinical experiences close to home. Today, we know that 40% of patients from the St. Elizabeth's Hospital service area leave our region for routine services. Also, regional RN turnover peaked around 36% in 2022. If we are to collaboratively combat these issues, we must introduce forward-thinking opportunities for Illinois consumers and students. These investments signal support for Illinois economy and workforce! Together we will accomplish this by supporting St. Elizabeth's Hospital and their intention to build a combination MOB & ASC on their O'Fallon, IL campus.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital has a long history of supporting nursing programs, including SIU-E's program. The foundational values of the health system, combined with its reputation as a region leader in quality care, provides an excellent training ground for developing health care professionals. In fact, their RN Residency program has, since 2006, provided one-to one preceptors; 140 hours of classroom and skills lab education; all with caring and considerate mentors to guide the way.

Colleagues at St. Elizabeth's Hospital ensure students are engaged during their clinical experiences. These early experiences play a significant role in the longevity of healthcare professionals in their careers.

The need for health care expansion in the O'Fallon community illustrates that nursing remains a vital healthcare profession, requiring the care and concern for its growth that HSBS shows in its residency programs and in its partnership with us.

HSBS' project request represents an important investment in offering the clinical resources needed in meeting both patient and student development demands. Please consider this letter of support as you review the HSBS' application for this vital healthcare investment.

Sincerely,



Judy Liesveld, PhD, PPCNP-BC, CNE, FAAN

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