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September 9, 2024

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Honorable Debra Savage, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62762

Dear Chair Savage and Members of the Services Review Board,

I would like state that I do not oppose HSHS St. Elizabeth Hospital's proposal to expand healthcare services. The proposal includes an ambulatory surgical treatment center and a medical office building, to be located on the St. Elizabeth Hospital campus.

HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital has a track record of providing patient-centered and high-quality health care that reflects its Franciscan heritage. This commitment includes provision of care that aligns with unmet need, including cutting edge cardiac care and use of the latest robotics technologies. They expertly do this while carrying out the Sisters' commitment to care for all populations of people.

As an independent general surgeon, specializing in robotic surgery, I have a duty to care for my patients in accordance with the best of my abilities. In carrying out this commitment, I rely on my hospital partners to provide an environment that facilitates not only a great experience for me, but my patients. St. Elizabeth Hospital's visionary strategies focused on adding this new infrastructure will allow me to deliver on the commitment I have made to my profession and patients. I will tell you that patients are asking for robotic surgery experiences and lower cost options for surgical care. This project will achieve these expectations. In addition to my medical staff duties, I serve as voting physician on the St. Elizabeth's Hospital Board of Directors. Understanding the market demand for surgical care, together with my personal experience with surgical access limitations due to our hospital being over its capacity limits, I know this investment is needed. If we don't act now, patients will go without care – or at least be forced to seek care outside our region and state. Extending beyond surgery, with this investment we can introduce new physician specialties such as advanced pediatric, urology, and neurosurgical services on our campus through expanded medical office building space. Medical office building space at St. Elizabeth's Hospital and across our market is non-existent due to facilities being at 100% capacity. Again, I emphasize that we must make these investments.

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As a local surgeon who just celebrated the completion of my 1,000th robotic surgery, I am committed to serving my patients locally, in their community – which requires committed partners such as HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital. Your support of this CON application request will sustain the ability of our local doctors as they carry out their duty of care.

Respectfully,

D. Scott Crouch, MD, FACS
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