



Champaign County
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE®

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January 7, 2025

Debra Savage, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Project # 24-034

Dear Chair Savage,

As President and CEO of the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to share my support for the recent Certificate of Need application submitted by Carle Health. This proposal to establish an outpatient digestive health center is a thoughtful response to the growing community's need for enhanced gastrointestinal health services.

A critical component of digestive health services is the colonoscopy procedure. This essential medical intervention, used for the screening, detection, and prevention of colorectal cancer—the second-leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States—has seen increased demand due to evolving screening guidelines. The 2022 updates recommend screenings for all individuals starting at age 45, regardless of risk factors. Coupled with changing population demographics, shifts in disease prevalence, heightened public awareness, and broader payor coverage, the demand for endoscopy services has surged nationally and within Carle Health's service area.

This project is an important step in meeting the healthcare needs of our community, and I am pleased to offer my personal support for the application.

Sincerely,

Laura E. Weis
President and CEO
Champaign County Chamber of Commerce