



OFFICE OF THE CHAMPAIGN COUNTY EXECUTIVE

1776 East Washington Street, Urbana, Illinois 61802-4581

Steve Summers, County Executive

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,

I serve in the role of County Executive for Champaign County, Illinois- an office I have held since December 1, 2022. I have been a community member, business owner, and have held several elected positions as a lifelong resident of Champaign County.

I am writing today in support of a recent Certificate of Need application filed by Carle Health, which has proposed to establish an outpatient digestive health center to meet an increased community need to address gastrointestinal health issues.

One critical element of digestive health services is colonoscopy. This procedure, which can be both diagnostic and curative, is a crucial medical procedure primarily used for the screening, detection, and prevention of colorectal cancer, which is the second-leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States. In 2022, colorectal cancer screening guidelines were updated to call for screenings for all individuals regardless of risk factors starting at age 45 instead of age 50. This update, along with changes in population demographics, disease prevalence, greater public awareness, and payor coverage decisions have all contributed to significant increases in the demand for endoscopy services over the last several years- both nationally and at Carle Health. Critically, a dedicated endoscopy center will allow this care to be provided in a freestanding ambulatory setting which separates endoscopy procedures from other procedures and surgeries requiring a sterile environment. Doing so will enable efficiency and support quality of care.

For these reasons, I am happy to offer my support for this application. If I can provide any further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff.

Sincerely,

Steve Summers
County Executive, Champaign County