



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 # 24-035

Dear Chair Savage,

I have the honor of serving as County Executive for Champaign County, Illinois. As a lifelong resident, I know and love this community, and have had the opportunity to serve my community through roles on the Champaign County Board (including Vice-Chair), and the Urbana School Board. I have served in the office of County Executive since December 1, 2022.

I am writing today on behalf of Champaign County to express my strong support for the Certificate of Need permit application submitted to the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board by Carle Health. This application proposes an expansion of the Carle at the Fields Ambulatory Surgery Center, a project that aligns with the initial vision for the facility and addresses critical healthcare needs in our community.

The proposed expansion is essential for several reasons: meeting growing demand, improving patient care, attracting medical talent, and cost reduction for patients and employers. Additional operating room and prep and recovery bays will allow Carle Health to address the increasing need for surgical services in our region while enhancing patient comfort and streamlining the surgical process.

Carle Health's forward-thinking approach takes into account several factors driving the increased demand for surgical services: changing population demographics, evolving disease prevalence, shifts in payor coverage decisions, and advancements in minimally invasive surgical techniques.

By proactively addressing these trends, Carle Health will safeguard continued access to vital ambulatory surgical care, which is fundamental to our community's overall health and well-being.

The expansion project directly addresses critical needs for the constituents in the 104th including, increased access to surgical services, reduced patient wait times, and a shift of care to a more cost-effective setting.

Given these significant benefits, I wholeheartedly endorse this application. The proposed expansion aligns perfectly with our commitment to improving healthcare access and affordability for all residents of Champaign County.

My office stands ready to provide any necessary support to ensure the success of this vital healthcare initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S Summers", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steve Summers
County Executive, Champaign County