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BRANDUN SCHWEIZER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 104TH DISTRICT

January 1, 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,

After 21 years with the United States Marine Corps, I was recently elected to my first term representing the citizens of the 104th House District of Illinois in the General Assembly. The 104th District covers parts of Champaign and Vermilion counties, and I am proud to offer my support of this critical project, which will increase access to care.

By way of this letter, I offer 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:** The additional operating rooms will allow Carle Health to address the increasing need for surgical services in our area.
- **Improving Patient Care:** The current facility lacks sufficient prep and recovery bays. Expanding these areas will enhance patient comfort and streamline the surgical process.
- **Attracting Medical Talent:** The expansion will facilitate Carle Health's efforts to recruit additional physicians, ensuring our community has access to top-tier medical professionals.
- **Cost Reduction for Patients and Employers:** By shifting appropriate procedures from Carle Foundation Hospital's outpatient department to the ASC, patients will benefit from lower out-of-pocket expenses.

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 the 104th District.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandun Schweizer", written over a horizontal line.

Brandun Schweizer
Representative, 104th District