

8/19/2024

To whom it may concern,

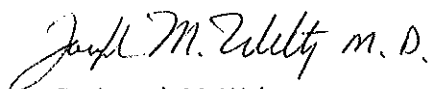
My name is Dr. Joseph M. Welty, and I am writing this letter in enthusiastic support of the affiliation of KSB Hospital with OSF Healthcare. My journey in the practice of family medicine began in July of 1985 as a member of the medical staff at KSB Hospital, and I now find myself beginning a fortieth year of being privileged to be a part of that same organization. One might say that my connection to KSB dates back even farther as my mother took on a position in the mid 1970's as a night shift nurse in the ICU at KSB in addition to her day work as an office nurse. She did this to assist me in paying for my premedical education. It has been an honor to serve an organization that helped give me the opportunity to become a physician. There have been many changes over these years, but one thing that has remained a constant is the devotion of our employees to bring the best quality in health care to our friends, neighbors, and families.

It is my belief that to continue to provide this same or better quality and to expand the availability of medical services to the people of the Sauk Valley area we must partner with a larger health care organization. In OSF we have found an organization that shares our patient centered values and agrees with our philosophy of opening our doors and providing access to all those in need. We at KSB also feel that we have found a partner that is extremely innovative and has many programs at the cutting edge of health care including but not limited to several centers of excellence, their cancer institute, the Children's Hospital of Illinois, and telehealth and virtual platforms. Even more impressive is OSF's ability to maintain focus on the every day preventative and primary care that we at KSB value while developing the aforementioned initiatives.

As a husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather, brother, nephew, cousin, friend, and neighbor to people that live in and utilize our area health care services I am committed to seeing that the best quality health care with ease of accessibility remains here in Dixon and our surrounding communities. Ensuring success of this goal involves a path of KSB affiliating with the mission partners of OSF who have welcomed us with open arms.

My life calling has been to serve those in need through providing the best healthcare I was capable of. It is both refreshing and exciting to be joining with an organization that shares and lives that calling each and every day.

Sincerely,



Dr. Joseph M. Welty