

Glen S. Hughes
1318 Eustace Dr.
Dixon, IL 61021

21 August 2024

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W Jefferson St., 2nd Flr.
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Review Board:

I am Glen Hughes, Mayor of the City of Dixon. This letter is in regards to my support for the affiliation of Katherine Shaw Bethea Hospital ("KSB") with OSF HealthCare System ("OSF"), both as its mayor and as a long-term resident.

KSB has been the primary component of health care in the City of Dixon since 1896. KSB has not only been integral to the health of Dixon & the Sauk Valley area, but also a key player in the economy and employment of the area. Additionally, the contributions to, and support for, the community in dollars, manpower, and partnership have been invaluable. I have seen and experienced this first hand as a resident (husband & parent), business leader, and now as mayor over the past thirty-one years.

I have been a witness to KSB's continued investment its facility, technology, and quality staff. However, in talking to David Schreiner, CEO of KSB, and some of its Board members, it is apparent to me that the impact of COVID and its aftermath has been devastating to the financial well-being of KSB. This has significantly degraded the hospital's ability to serve and maintain the level of financial investment needed to continue quality service to its service area.

I also understand that it was with a great deal of discussion, concern, and reluctance, that after almost 128 years of service as an independent health care provider to Dixon and the Sauk Valley Area, the Board decided to investigate the probability of affiliation. In their fiduciary capacity the KSB Board of Directors undertook study and analysis, including the retention of outside consultants, to determine the viability of continuing to operate while maintaining the level of medical care that KSB has provided.

I have been informed that it was the unanimous decision of the KSB Board that to continue to operate independently would impair KSB's to provide medical care to the residents of Dixon and the surrounding communities.

In its due diligence to find an affiliate or merger partner the KSB Board entered into discussions with several health care providers/systems. I have been told that in so doing, the KSB Board determined that strongest commitment to and investment in the health care services and facilities would be provided by OSF. As a resident of Dixon, knowing some of the Board members