



December 23, 2024

Debra Savage, Chair
Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62762

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

25-011

Re: Support for HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Certificate of Need
Renovations to use hospital space more efficiently to meet existing patient demand

Dear Chairwoman Savage:

I respectfully urge you and the Health Facilities & Services Board to support the Certificate of Need application filed by St. Elizabeth's Hospital ("SEO"). The application addresses the extremely high utilization rates at the hospital by making the facility more space-efficient and expanding its Emergency Department and medical/surgical in-patient capacity to reflect current patient care levels. This project is entirely justified by existing patient volume at SEO and does not rely upon volume from any other facility.

The hospital's Emergency Department routinely operates at "peak census." Compared to the state's target utilization rate of 85%, SEO's existing 122-bed medical/surgical unit has been at 90% utilization or above every year since 2019, and over 100% in each of the past two years. This extremely high medical/surgical utilization has only exacerbated the current capacity constraints in the Emergency Department by creating a back-up as patients are "boarded" while awaiting inpatient beds to become available. The proposed SEO project is well justified with 32 new inpatient medical/surgical unit beds and eight new Emergency Department treatment rooms.

In addition to this clinical expansion, the proposed SEO investment will:

- Relocate outpatient registration operations to increase patient access and efficiency of care; and
- Modernize 35,000 square feet of space.

Patients will benefit from greater accessibility, more efficient care, and an enhanced health care experience. I support this CON application and request that the Health Facilities & Services Board approve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter Denton", is written over a horizontal line.

Walter Denton
City Administrator
City of O'Fallon