



December 20, 2024

Ms. Debra Savage, Chair
IL Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, Second Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD
25-011

Dear Chair Savage:

I am writing in support of HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital in O'Fallon (SEO) Certificate of Need (CON) application to the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to invest \$66 million in capital improvements to improve space efficiency and meet existing patient care demands.

The SEO plans to invest in 32 new inpatient beds for their medical-surgical unit, eight new emergency department treatment rooms, and a new CT scanner are clearly warranted. These additions will enable SEO to meet state target utilization standards, address existing and future emergency department demand, and enhance the clinical experience for the hospital's existing patient base.

The infrastructure improvements at SEO – consisting of a modernization of existing space and the addition of 19,000 square feet of new clinical space – will dramatically improve healthcare access and efficiency of care for a patient population that has outgrown the existing hospital space. As a nursing professor at McKendree University, I know that these infrastructure improvements will enhance the working conditions of, and care delivery by, the talented nurses at SEO.

Beyond my role with McKendree University, I currently serve as Board Chair of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital - Breese (SJB). I also previously served as a rural Illinois hospital CEO. In carrying out my duties as Board chairperson and as a past healthcare executive, I understand the need for consistently available tertiary care in supporting more rural facilities such as SJB. The entire healthcare ecosystem in southern Illinois will benefit from SEO's expansion.

Thank you for this opportunity to support this CON application.

Sincerely,

Dr. Richelle Rennegarbe

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