



HSHS
St. Elizabeth's
Hospital

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

25-011

March 20, 2025

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

Dear Chairperson Savage,

Please accept this letter of support for the record regarding the Certificate of Need (CON) application submitted by Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) on behalf of HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital in O'Fallon, Illinois.

As President and Chief Executive Officer of St. Elizabeth's Hospital (SEO), I have observed the utilization of our emergency department (ED) and inpatient units escalate at rates that significantly exceed the physical capacity of our current hospital structure. Our ED volume has more than doubled since occupying our new building in November of 2017 and our inpatient census consistently exceeds our 144 staffed bed capacity with census often exceeding 160 patients. To best meet the needs of the community, this CON application proposes clinical expansion that addresses access and capacity limitations impacting our ED and inpatient service lines. This proposed project will significantly increase access to health care services in the region.

In addition to the mentioned clinical expansion, we will optimize the outpatient registration experience for patients and relocate our food and nutrition services to the ground level of our hospital, enhancing access for patients, guests, and colleagues. Both investments will favorably impact overall access and experience for our community members. Subject to your approval, the plans within this application include \$66 million in capital improvements at HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

Our intent to actively respond to increasing clinical volume demand through both infrastructure and process improvements confirms our long-standing dedication to caring for patients in Southwestern Illinois and the Metro-East.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support of the CON application for HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital-O'Fallon, Illinois.

Chris Klay
President and CEO
HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital