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March 7, 2025

Honorable Debra Savage, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield IL 62762

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Re: *Support for CON #25-011*
HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital in O'Fallon, Illinois

Dear Hon. Chair Savage,

Please accept this letter of support for the Certificate of Need ("CON") application from the Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) for St. Elizabeth's Hospital in O'Fallon ("SEO").

As the Medical Director/Chairman of the Emergency Department at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, I note with enthusiasm that this project makes needed investments in the community where I practice and the hospital in which I serve patients. For years I have seen firsthand that our medical and surgical units operate well above state target utilization rates; in the last two years, that utilization has averaged 100%. When this happens, patients in the emergency department face longer wait times for inpatient beds, especially when SEO experiences surges in patient need.

The clinical expansion proposed in CON #25-011 includes 32 inpatient medical/surgical unit beds and 8 emergency department treatment rooms to accommodate this persistent patient demand. The proposed investments will make the hospital campus more efficient and more accessible to its patients and employees.

Your support of this CON application will enable SEO to continue providing high-quality care to Metro East residents without compromising other healthcare operations in the region. I am proud to offer my voice to those who have urged your approval of this needed capital investment.

Respectfully,

Basem Khishfe, MD
St. Elizabeth's Hospital Medical Director of Emergency Services
1 St. Elizabeth's Blvd.
O'Fallon, IL 62269