



May 13, 2025

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Letter of Support for Mt. Zion Center for Surgery Proposed Ambulatory Surgery Center

Dear Members of the Review Board,

On behalf of the Decatur Regional Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our strong support for the creation of the Mt. Zion Center for Surgery, an Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) serving Decatur, Illinois, Macon County, and the Central Illinois region.

This proposed facility will enable our orthopedic surgeons to perform the majority of its surgical procedures, including arthroscopy, total joint replacements, and fracture repair, in a high-quality, cost-effective outpatient setting. While certain complex cases, revisions, or patients with significant comorbidities will continue to require hospital care, the ASC will offer a safe and efficient alternative for the vast majority of orthopedic surgeries.

This project is critically important to our community and local business environment. As health care costs continue to escalate, providing more affordable, high-quality options for surgical care is essential. Studies consistently show that ASCs deliver the same or better outcomes compared to hospital settings, while significantly reducing costs—often by more than 50%. These savings directly benefit our employers, employees, and families, potentially saving hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of dollars in health care expenditures over time.

For our business community, this facility will help control rising insurance premiums, lower workers' compensation claims related to orthopedic care, and reduce employee downtime by providing faster, more convenient access to surgical services. These improvements strengthen the overall health, productivity, and competitiveness of our local workforce. Beyond the economic benefits, this center will enhance the patient experience by offering a streamlined, same-day care model that allows individuals to safely recover in the comfort of their own homes, reducing stress and time away from work and family.

Decatur remains one of the few major cities in Central Illinois without an ASC. Facilities like this are standard in peer communities such as Springfield, Champaign, and Bloomington. The addition of an ASC in Decatur is both necessary and overdue, providing our residents and businesses access to the same level of care and cost savings already available in neighboring communities.

We respectfully urge your support for this important project, which will strengthen our health care infrastructure, reduce costs for employers and patients, and improve quality of life in the Decatur area. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mirinda Rothrock".

Mirinda Rothrock, President

Decatur Regional Chamber of Commerce