

July 23, 2025

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

Re: CON Project 25-013
Discontinuation of ICU and Obstetrics services
OSF Saint Elizabeth Medical Center - Ottawa

Dear Chairwoman Savage:

My name is Steve Gahan. I am a certified public accountant and served as a board member of Mendota Community Hospital and OSF Saint Paul Medical Center from 2004 to 2023. In 2015, we joined OSF HealthCare. Like many rural hospitals, we were struggling. We reached out to several health care systems with OSF being the clear choice by our local board.

The innovative and strategic thinking of the OSF leadership team immediately impressed me during this transition. Many of our conversations focused on their vision for the future of rural health care—a regional model of care. Simply put, this model delivers more services across a broader region while keeping patients and families close to home. OSFs planning for this approach has been thoughtful, thorough, and consistent, aligning with recommendations from the American Hospital Association.

Although the regional model may look different today due to the many changes in health care over the past several years, its core philosophy remains the same: delivering accessible, coordinated, and sustainable care to rural communities. Throughout this time, I have remained consistently impressed by OSF's leadership and their ongoing commitment to innovation especially during an increasingly complex and evolving health care landscape.

OSFs current proposal continues to reflect that early vision. Consolidating OB/Birthing and ICU services at the Peru campus will give families throughout the area access to more specialized and comprehensive care. It will also enhance OSFs ability to recruit and retain top medical talent.

By concentrating services in one location, more patients can receive the care they need locally rather than being transferred outside the region.

This approach will ensure the patient volumes necessary to maintain the staff, technology, and infrastructure required to support these vital services well into the future.

I respectfully ask the board to support this important next step in OSF's regional care plan by approving the discontinuation of OB/Birthing and ICU services in Ottawa. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Gahan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" and last name "Gahan" clearly distinguishable.

Steve Gahan