

[07/21/2025]

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,

I am writing in support of the proposed discontinuation of ICU and Obstetric services at OSF Saint Elizabeth Medical Center – Ottawa, in alignment with their relocation and expansion at OSF Saint Elizabeth Medical Center – Peru.

As a physician who has grown professionally within this community, I have witnessed firsthand the complexities and limitations of providing high-acuity care in a fragmented model. Delivering high-quality, safe, and sustainable care requires a coordinated effort between the hospital system and the community it serves. Unfortunately, the current structure in Ottawa no longer allows us to adequately meet the growing demands and complexity of patient care.

The transition to Peru is a strategic and necessary evolution—one that reflects OSF's commitment to advancing care quality, ensuring patient safety, and improving outcomes across the Illinois Valley. The Peru facility provides enhanced infrastructure, access to multidisciplinary teams, and the ability to recruit and retain skilled professionals who can support a 24/7 model of care.

By consolidating ICU and Obstetric services in Peru, OSF is building a more robust and sustainable system—one that allows for:

- **Stronger clinical collaboration** and peer support, reducing physician isolation and burnout;
- **Higher quality of care** through concentrated patient volume and specialist availability;
- **Improved patient safety** with immediate access to diagnostics, advanced monitoring, and critical care resources;
- **Efficient use of resources** that minimizes duplication and directs staff,

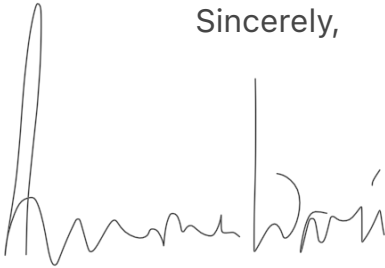
equipment, and funding where they are most needed;

- **Long-term sustainability**, ensuring ongoing access to high-level care in a region where many rural communities are facing closures and service reductions.

This change is not a loss for Ottawa—it is an investment in the future of regional health care. Patients will continue to receive emergency, diagnostic, outpatient, and primary care services locally, while more intensive services will be safely and efficiently managed just minutes away.

I urge the Board to approve this project, which represents a proactive and responsible effort to meet the health care needs of our communities for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Huma Warsi', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

**Huma Warsi, MD**  
**Hospitalist Medical Director**  
OSF Saint Elizabeth Medical Center