



October 24, 2025

Ms. Debra Savage, Chairwoman
Mr. John P. Kniery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Project 25-013 OSF Saint Elizabeth Medical Center – Ottawa, Discontinuation of ICU and OB

Dear Chairwoman Savage and Mr. Kniery:

As a physician, I am writing to express my strong support for OSF HealthCare's Certificate of Need (CON) application to consolidate intensive care (ICU) and inpatient obstetrics (OB) services from Ottawa to the hospital facility in Peru.

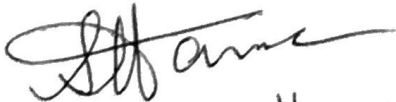
In my professional experience, OSF HealthCare has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to quality, safety, and compassionate care. The proposed regional model reflects a forward-thinking approach that ensures patients across LaSalle, Bureau, Putnam, and surrounding counties will continue to have access to exceptional care delivered in the most clinically appropriate and sustainable settings.

The challenges facing health care today, including provider shortages, population declines, and the need for specialized expertise, require innovative solutions. OSF's plan to centralize certain inpatient services while expanding outpatient, emergency, behavioral health, and specialty care locally is both practical and in the best interest of patients. The addition of mobile and virtual services, along with regionally distributed OB practices and telehealth, ensures continuity of care close to home.

This model strengthens care coordination, supports recruitment and retention of specialized clinicians, and enhances long-term stability of services throughout our region. It also honors OSF's Mission to serve with the greatest care and love, guided by a commitment to sustainability and stewardship of resources.

I respectfully urge the Review Board to approve OSF HealthCare's CON application. This approach provides a clinically sound, patient-centered framework that will improve outcomes, ensure equitable access, and support the future of health care in our communities.

Sincerely,


Sherine Hanne MD