

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:

My name is Dr. Brett Cassidy, and I am an Obstetrician-Gynecologist with 25 years of experience, including prior service in the United States Air Force. I have been practicing in the Sandwich, Yorkville, and Plainfield areas since 2006, and for the past two and a half years, I have been proud to serve patients as part of OSF HealthCare, including caring for women and families at OSF Saint Elizabeth Medical Center in Ottawa.

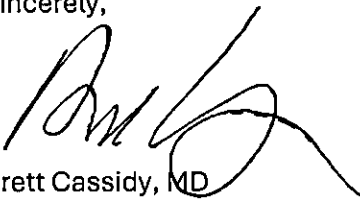
As an OB/GYN, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges facing women's health care in smaller communities across Illinois. Many hospital systems have chosen to close their labor and delivery units, leaving women with fewer options and forcing them to travel long distances for care. In contrast, OSF HealthCare remains deeply committed to maintaining, and even expanding, access to high-quality obstetric and gynecologic care in these communities.

Our team at OSF HealthCare provides compassionate, personalized care close to home for mothers and families who deserve that access to quality health care. OSF's continued investment in these services reflects a mission-driven approach to health care that prioritizes people over profit and sustains critical access in rural and smaller markets.

I strongly support OSF HealthCare's efforts and its vision to strengthen women's health services across the region. Their commitment ensures that families in communities like Ottawa continue to receive the safe, high-quality care they need and deserve.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brett Cassidy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brett Cassidy, MD
OSF Medical Group: Obstetrics & Gynecology
1614 East Norris Drive
Ottawa, IL 61350