

Robert A. Lindquist
100 Lauralton St.
Lake Bluff, IL 60044
847-638-4468

December 11, 2025

Mr. John Kniery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: CON #25-033 Lake Forest Hospital Open Heart Surgery – Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Kniery and Members of the Board,

My name is Robert Lindquist, and I am writing to share my personal experience as a cardiology patient within Northwestern Medicine and to express my strong support for establishing an open-heart surgery program at Lake Forest Hospital (LFH).

On May 8, 2024, I arrived at LFH for what I believed would be a routine check related to my stent. During evaluation, my physician determined that my coronary arteries were severely blocked and that I required urgent bypass surgery. I was informed that this surgery could not be performed at LFH and that I would need to be transferred. My family and I were given two options: to undergo surgery the next day at Northwestern Medicine McHenry Hospital with Dr. Sandhu, or to wait until Friday for surgery at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago. We chose McHenry, and I was transported there by ambulance, with my daughter following to provide support.

Dr. Sandhu performed a quadruple bypass surgery. While the care I received was excellent, the transfer process caused delays in my treatment and added stress during a critical time. Instead of receiving surgery immediately at LFH, I had to wait for transportation and scheduling at another hospital. Remaining at LFH would have allowed me to receive timely care without interruption.

Additionally, the transfer brought about logistical difficulties for my family. My daughter had to handle travel arrangements and coordination at a crucial moment, and the distance made it challenging for my support system to be present. The trip required driving at least an hour each way, adding stress and hardship for everyone involved. I am thankful my family managed this journey, as it would have been impossible for many others. If open-heart surgery were available at LFH, it would have greatly reduced these burdens and allowed me to remain close to home and loved ones during a tough time.

I strongly believe that offering open-heart surgery at LFH will benefit patients and families in our community. It will reduce delays in care, minimize the strain of transfers, and ensure that patients can receive life-saving treatment without leaving their local hospital.

Thank you for considering this request. I urge you to approve the application for an open-heart surgery program at Lake Forest Hospital.

Sincerely,

Robert A Lindquist
Robert A Lindquist (Dec 11, 2025 14:02:29 CST)

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