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April 2, 2026

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

Dear Ms. Savage,

I am writing in strong support of the development of a dedicated Observation Unit at Advocate South Suburban Hospital.

As chairman of the Department of Medicine at Advocate South Suburban Hospital and a practicing nephrologist, I see firsthand the importance of efficient patient throughput, appropriate utilization of inpatient resources, and timely high-quality care. A dedicated Observation Unit represents a critical step toward improving all of these domains by allowing for focused management of patients who require short-term evaluation without necessitating full inpatient admission. This model will enhance patient care by reducing unnecessary hospitalizations, improving care coordination, and facilitating more timely discharges. It will also support the hospitalists – who play a central role in inpatient care delivery by providing a structured environment for managing observation-status patients more effectively.

From my perspective, this initiative aligns well with both hospital priorities and community needs. As a subspecialist who frequently collaborates with hospitalists, I anticipate continued close coordination in the management of shared patients, particularly those requiring nephrology input/dialysis during observation stays.

I fully support this initiative and believe it will strengthen Advocate South Suburban Hospital's ability to deliver high-value, patient-centered care while enhancing collaboration among providers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suresh N. Samson".

Suresh N. Samson, MD
Nephrologist
Chair, Department of Medicine
Advocate South Suburban Hospital