



ERICA HARRISS

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April 23, 2026

Debra Savage, Chairperson
Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Project 26-012 Touchette Regional Hospital/SIHF Healthcare Replacement Hospital

Dear Ms. Savage,

I write in support of Touchette Regional Hospital's proposed replacement hospital.

Access to timely, quality healthcare remains a significant priority for families throughout the Metro East region. Investments that strengthen local healthcare infrastructure, expand service capacity, and improve access to care are important to the long-term wellbeing of our communities.

This project would establish a new 108 bed hospital campus in Cahokia Heights with inpatient, emergency, surgical, diagnostic, and outpatient services designed to meet current and future regional needs.

Of particular importance is the proposed expansion of behavioral health services, including adult, geriatric, and adolescent inpatient capacity. Mental and behavioral healthcare access remains a serious challenge in many communities, and additional treatment options closer to home would benefit patients and families throughout the region. The planned adolescent unit would also provide a needed level of care that is currently limited in Southern Illinois.

This proposal also represents an opportunity to modernize healthcare delivery through an updated facility designed for future growth and evolving patient needs.

Thank you for your consideration of this application and for your continued work to ensure Illinois residents have access to responsive, high quality healthcare services.

Sincerely,

Erica Harriss
IL State Senator | District 56

