



March 1, 2026

Ms. Debra Savage, Chairwoman
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Support for Sarah D. Culbertson Memorial Hospital Certificate of Need

Dear Chairwoman Savage:

I am writing on behalf of Memorial Hospital to express our support for the proposed renovation project for Sarah D. Culbertson Memorial Hospital (SDCMH). As a fellow rural healthcare provider serving Western Illinois, we recognize the importance of maintaining strong, accessible hospital services for the communities we collectively serve.

Providing healthcare in rural areas is increasingly challenging. Hospitals across our region face similar pressures related to aging infrastructure, workforce limitations, and rising demand for services. We believe collaboration among rural healthcare organizations – rather than competition – is essential to ensuring residents continue to receive timely, high-quality care close to home.

SDCMH's existing facilities, many of which were constructed more than fifty years ago, understandably struggle to meet the demands of modern healthcare delivery. Limitations related to building size, layout, and infrastructure can restrict service expansion and hinder the efficient delivery of care.

The proposed renovation project will allow SDCMH to modernize its facilities, support advancements in medical technology, and expand the availability of procedures offered locally. This investment is particularly important as the population ages and as patients increasingly seek care that is accessible within their own communities. Reducing the need for lengthy travel outside the region helps remove barriers to care and supports better health outcomes.

Approval of this Certificate of Need will help ensure that Schuyler County residents and surrounding communities continue to have access to comprehensive healthcare services close to home. Memorial Hospital respectfully urges the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve this important project.

Sincerely,

Ada Bair
Chief Executive Officer
Memorial Hospital Association

