

February 25, 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 CON

Dear Chairwoman Savage:

I am writing to express my support for the proposed renovation project for Sarah D. Culbertson Memorial Hospital ("SDCMH").

Like SDCMH, our hospital has long served the health needs of Western Illinois. Blessing Hospital is a 347-bed, not-for-profit acute-care hospital. Blessing Hospital is part of the Blessing Health System and serves as a major regional healthcare provider. The hospital emphasizes compassionate, high-quality care, supported by advanced medical technology and modern facilities. It is fully accredited by DNV-GL Healthcare, reflecting its commitment to safety and quality.

Providing health care in rural areas is challenging and likely to become more so. I am proud that Western Illinois hospitals and health care providers try to work collaboratively, rather than competitively, to meet our residents' health care needs.

SDCMH's facilities, most of which were built over 50 years ago, struggle to meet the demands of modern medicine. The existing size and structure limit the scope of services available and hinder the delivery of efficient, high-quality care.

The new facility will allow SDCMH to keep pace with advancements in medical technology while expanding the range of procedures that can be offered locally. This is especially important as the population ages and the need for accessible, nearby healthcare is growing more urgent. Many residents currently face the burden of traveling over an hour outside their region for necessary procedures; an unnecessary hardship that can delay care and worsen outcomes.

Approving this project will ensure that Schuyler County residents, and surrounding communities, can continue to receive timely, comprehensive care close to home.

I respectfully urge you to support and approve this important project.

Sincerely,



Tim Tranor, DNP, MBA, RN
EVP/Chief Operating Officer