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HEALTH FACILITIES &
TECHNOLOGY SERVICES DIVISION

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DALE FOWLER
STATE SENATOR • 59TH DISTRICT

April 15, 2026

Ms. Debra Savage, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for CON Application for Inpatient
Obstetric Care at Deaconess Illinois Medical Center

Dear Chairwoman Savage,

I write in strong support of Deaconess Illinois Medical Center's CON application to establish inpatient obstetric services in Marion. Southern Illinois is facing a clear and urgent maternal health crisis, with a majority of its counties lacking maternity care facilities or providers and many families forced to travel long distances for basic services.

This proposal represents a practical and timely solution. By reestablishing this needed OB service and integrating it with an EMS hub, the project will significantly improve access, reduce travel times, and strengthen regional healthcare infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale Fowler".

Dale Fowler
Illinois State Senator, 59th District