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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

April 10, 2026

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

Re: Support for CON Application of Deaconess Illinois Medical Center
Authorizing Inpatient Obstetric Care Service in Marion, Illinois

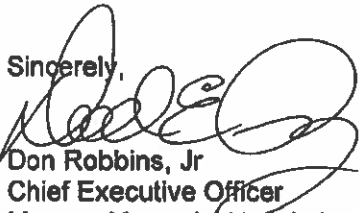
Dear Chair Savage,

I write to express strong support for the proposed reestablishment of obstetric and maternity services by Deaconess Illinois Medical Center in Marion. As a rural healthcare provider serving Southern Illinois, we witness firsthand the growing challenges facing expectant mothers across the region. This project directly addresses a well-documented maternal health crisis marked by widespread maternity care deserts, limited provider capacity, and excessive travel times for patients seeking prenatal, labor and delivery, and perinatal services. Expanding access through the reestablishment of these services in Marion will provide a critical, centrally located resource for families who currently face significant barriers to care.

The data clearly demonstrates the urgency of this need. Most counties in Southern Illinois lack maternity services, and many existing facilities are operating at or beyond capacity. As a result, patients are often forced to travel 45 minutes to two hours – or even cross state lines – to receive care, leading to delayed or foregone prenatal treatment and increased health risks for both mothers and infants. These challenges are further compounded by the high proportion of Medicaid-covered births in the region, where access to providers equipped to manage high-risk pregnancies is especially limited. The proposed project focuses on increasing capacity, reducing travel times, and improving access for Medicaid patients aligns closely with the needs we observe in our own patient population.

Reestablishing obstetric services in Marion in an existing facility is a thoughtful and efficient approach that will have an immediate and meaningful impact. We believe this initiative will significantly improve maternal and neonatal outcomes, reduce disparities in access to care, and ensure that families can receive high-quality services closer to home. For these reasons, Massac Memorial Hospital fully supports this application and respectfully urges its approval.

Sincerely,



Don Robbins, Jr
Chief Executive Officer
Massac Memorial Hospital