



**HARDIN COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL & CLINIC**

*"Caring For Your Family – With Ours"*

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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 Inpatient Obstetric Care at Deaconess Illinois Medical Center

Dear Chairwoman Savage,

I am pleased to offer our *strong support* for the proposed reestablishment of obstetric and maternity services by Deaconess Illinois Medical Center on behalf of Hardin County General Hospital. Rural communities across Southern Illinois continue to face significant barriers to accessing timely and appropriate maternal care, including a high concentration of maternity care deserts, limited provider capacity, and excessive travel distances for patients. Many expectant patients must drive 45 minutes to two hours, or even leave the state, to receive prenatal and delivery services – creating risks for both maternal and infant health. The proposed project would directly address these challenges by providing a centrally located, high-capacity maternity unit that improves access to comprehensive care for a large and underserved regional population.

The need for expanded services is particularly urgent given the high proportion of Medicaid-covered births in the region and the limited availability of providers equipped to manage high-risk pregnancies. This project represents an efficient and impactful solution to a growing crisis. It will reduce travel times, ease capacity constraints at existing hospitals, and allow more families to receive care close to home. Hardin County General Hospital strongly believes this investment will improve maternal and neonatal outcomes and strengthen the overall healthcare infrastructure in Southern Illinois, and we respectfully urge the Board to approve this important CON application.

Sincerely,

*Roby Williams*

Roby Williams  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hardin County General Hospital