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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

Dear Ms. Savage,

Access to high-quality, essential healthcare services is a critical factor in community well-being, regional stability, and economic development. On behalf of the Marion Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our strong support for the Certificate of Need application submitted by Deaconess Illinois Medical Center.

The proposed project responds to a demonstrated regional need for obstetric services and will improve access to care for residents across Southern Illinois. By strengthening the availability of maternal and infant care close to home, this expansion supports continuity of care, reduces unnecessary travel for patients, and enhances overall health outcomes for families in Marion and surrounding communities.

In addition to meeting a vital healthcare need, this project will generate meaningful economic and workforce benefits for the region. Construction activity will create immediate employment opportunities, while the expanded services will support long-term clinical and support positions. These investments contribute to workforce retention, help attract healthcare professionals to the region, and reinforce Marion's role as a regional hub for medical services.

The Marion Chamber of Commerce views this proposal as a sound, responsible investment that aligns with CON objectives related to access, need, quality of care, and efficient use of healthcare resources. For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Board to approve the Certificate of Need application for Deaconess Illinois Medical Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Karen Mullins'.

Karen Mullins - Executive Director, Marion Chamber of Commerce



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