



April 13, 2026

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

Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application for  
OB Services at Deaconess Illinois Medical Center

Dear Chairwoman Savage,

I am writing to express my support for the Certificate of Need application submitted by Deaconess Illinois Medical Center to establish obstetric services at its hospital in Marion. The southern Illinois region is widely recognized as an obstetric care desert, primarily due to the lack of options for hospital labor and delivery services. This expansion represents a critical step toward addressing a significant gap in essential healthcare services.

Currently, patients have limited options for delivery care which may result in long travel distances to access care. This creates unnecessary barriers, potential delays in care, and increased risk for both mothers and infants. Establishing OB services locally will greatly improve access, promote healthier outcomes, and provide much-needed support for families in our region.

This project will have a meaningful and lasting positive impact on the community. I, on behalf of Shawnee Health, support the application for OB Services at Deaconess Illinois Medical Center.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christina G. Carney".

Christina G. Carney, MBA, FACHE  
CEO