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May 11, 2026

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Dear Members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board:

RE: Letter of Support – Change of Ownership Application by Deaconess Regional Healthcare Services Illinois, Inc. for the Purchase of Marion Healthcare Surgery Center

On behalf of the City of Marion, Illinois, I am pleased to submit this letter of support for the change of ownership application filed by Deaconess Regional Healthcare Services Illinois, Inc. (hereinafter “Deaconess IL”) for the proposed purchase of Marion Healthcare Surgery Center. I write to you in my capacity as Mayor of the City of Marion, a community of approximately 17,000 residents located in Williamson County in Southern Illinois.

Marion serves as the regional hub for healthcare, commerce, and services for a multi-county area of Southern Illinois. Access to high-quality surgical and outpatient care is of paramount importance to our residents, many of whom rely on locally available healthcare facilities to avoid lengthy travel to distant urban medical centers. The continued operation and improvement of Marion Healthcare Surgery Center is critical to meeting the healthcare needs of our community.

Deaconess IL has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to providing exceptional healthcare services to the residents of Southern Illinois and the greater tri-state region. Their proven track record of operational excellence, investment in medical technology and infrastructure, and dedication to patient-centered care make them exceptionally well-positioned to acquire and further develop Marion Healthcare Surgery Center. I am confident that Deaconess IL will bring expanded resources, enhanced services, and improved capabilities to this facility in a manner that will greatly benefit the people of Marion and the surrounding region.

The purchase of Marion Healthcare Surgery Center by Deaconess Regional Healthcare Services Illinois, Inc. represents a significant and positive investment in the healthcare infrastructure of our community. This change of ownership is expected to preserve existing surgical services,

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protect local healthcare jobs, and position the facility for long-term growth and sustainability. From an economic development standpoint, the continued vitality of this surgery center supports not only the health of our residents but also the economic health of our city.

I respectfully urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to give favorable consideration to the change of ownership application submitted by Deaconess Regional Healthcare Services Illinois, Inc. This change of ownership is in the public interest and will serve the healthcare needs of the Marion community and the broader Southern Illinois region for years to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact my office should you require any additional information or have any questions.
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. Absher".

Michael W. Absher, Mayor