



May 11, 2026

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

RE: Letter of Support for Deaconess IL Purchase of Marion Healthcare Surgery Center

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

On behalf of the Marion Chamber of Commerce and the business community we represent, I am pleased to support the change of ownership application filed by Deaconess Regional Healthcare Services Illinois, Inc. for the proposed purchase of Marion Healthcare Surgery Center. Our organization advocates for the economic vitality and quality of life of Marion and the surrounding Southern Illinois region, and we view access to dependable healthcare services as a critical part of a strong and growing community.

Access to quality healthcare is a key factor for families, employers, and workforce retention. Marion Healthcare Surgery Center provides essential surgical and outpatient services close to home, and its continued strength supports both community well-being and local economic growth. Maintaining these services locally is important for residents, employees, and the many businesses that rely on a healthy and stable workforce.

Deaconess IL is a respected healthcare organization with an established record of serving Southern Illinois. We are confident it brings the financial strength, operational expertise, and community-focused mission needed to help Marion Healthcare Surgery Center remain stable and continue serving our region under new ownership. Its experience and regional presence provide added confidence that patients will continue to receive quality care close to home.

Healthcare is one of the largest employment sectors in our community, and preserving this facility under capable ownership helps protect jobs, support related businesses, and strengthen the regional healthcare environment. We believe this proposed transaction will provide long-term benefits for patients, employees, and the broader Southern Illinois economy. For these reasons, we respectfully urge approval of this application.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me if additional information from the Marion Chamber of Commerce would be helpful.

Sincerely,

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

Karen Mullins - Executive Director, Marion Chamber of Commerce



