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TOI W. HUTCHINSON
STATE SENATOR
40TH DISTRICT

September 3, 2013

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
Illinois Department of Public Health
525 West Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield IL 62761

Attention: Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator

Re: Preferred SurgiCenter, LLC (Project 13-007)

Dear Ms. Avery:

It is my understanding that Preferred SurgiCenter, LLC ("PSC") is applying for a certificate of need ("CON") permit from the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board ("State Board") and is proposing to establish the first-ever ambulatory surgical treatment center ("ASTC") that is friendly to Muslim American patients. I am writing to express my strong support for this project and am asking the members of the State Board to vote in favor of this proposal.

I am especially supportive of PSC's plan because it will establish a health care facility that is able and willing to meet the unmet health care needs of Muslim American women living in my district. As the State Senator for the 40th District, I have learned that Muslim American women in the communities I serve are not able to obtain health care services that considers their cultural values and religious beliefs. The ASTC proposed by PSC will help to remedy this problem.

I ask the members of the State Board to consider the following points when it is considering PSC's proposal at its September 2013 meeting:

- The number one concern of Muslim American women is having a female doctor. PSC has pledged to recruit and retain female physicians who can serve Muslim women in need of surgical services.
- In particular, Muslim women often seek out a female physician for prenatal care and prefer to have a female doctor present at delivery. In certain cases, Muslim women must obtain same day obstetrics/gynecology surgical services. PSC will offer these types of health care services, which will be provided by a female surgeon who specializes in this category of service. This is a significant component in PSC's CON permit application and should be given significant weight.
- Based on my knowledge, the second most important concern of Muslim American women is having a health care provider who speaks their language. PSC has pledged to hire or contract with physicians, nurses and other staff who are bilingual in Arabic or similar languages. I am not aware of any other hospital or surgery center in my district that has made a similar pledge or has committed to serving the special needs of the Muslim American population.

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- Many new Muslim American immigrants are low income and must turn to government-sponsored health care. I support this project because PSC has committed to becoming a Medicaid provider, which should enhance access to surgical services among the low income Muslim American population. In addition, PSC will establish a robust charity care program that will care for persons who are not able to qualify for any government-sponsored care.

For the reasons noted above, I ask the State Board to approve this CON permit application. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Senator Toi W. Hutchinson

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