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AUG 07 2014

**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

John Timmons, MD, FACEP  
President/CEO,  
Hoopeston Emergency Medicine Specialists, Ltd.  
of Hoopeston Regional Health Center  
700 East Orange  
Hoopeston, Illinois 60942

August 4, 2014

Ms. Kathryn Olson, Chair  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Carle Foundation Hospital, Project No. 14-015

Dear Ms. Olson:

I am writing to request approval of the proposal by Carle Foundation Hospital to increase patient access and build out the ninth floor of Carle Tower. Patients throughout the region rely upon the level of care available at Carle Foundation Hospital.

In my practice, I see patients at Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center (CHRHC). Conditions can vary from acute illness to accidents and injuries and there are times when it is critical for the patient to receive treatment at a larger facility. So it is vital for my patients to have access to care at Carle when they need more advanced specialty care. I want to be confident that I will be able to send patients to Carle Foundation Hospital and there will be a bed available.

As the region's Level I Trauma Center for more than 25 years, Carle has received national recognition for its outstanding critical care. Carle Foundation Hospital is also a Certified Primary Stroke Center providing highly capable neurosurgeon coverage 24/7/365 and Carle Heart and Vascular Institute is available for those who need advanced cardiovascular care.

As a physician who practices at CHRHC I have the ability to monitor my patient's progress through Carle's Epic electronic medical record. Patient records are in a secure electronic format, allowing quick access to information to provide better patient care. At times, I contact Carle specialty physicians to determine the best plan of care when I need assistance. Many of these patients are able to

remain at Hoopeston, with that specialty consult. In my practice, if Carle Foundation Hospital isn't available, many patients would have to travel out of the region or to Indiana for treatment. With Carle nearby, my patients and their loved ones are able to stay closer to home and receive high quality care.

My patients need the services offered by Carle Foundation Hospital and they need to be assured that there is a bed available when they need specialty or emergent care. I fully support the proposal to increase access to care at Carle providing a level of care not available elsewhere in the area. In advocating for my patients, I urge the Board to approve this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Timmons', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

John Timmons, MD , FACEP

Pres/CEO,

Hoopeston Emergency Medicine Specialists, Ltd.

708-846-4329