



**St. Joseph's
Hospital Breese**

AN AFFILIATE OF HOSPITAL SISTERS HEALTH SYSTEM

9515 Holy Cross Lane
PO Box 99
Breese, IL 62230
(618) 526-4511
www.stjoebreese.com

October 22, 2014

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RECEIVED

OCT 27 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Re: In Support of Project #14-043 St. Elizabeth Hospital's replacement hospital in O'Fallon

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing to let you know I strongly support St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plans to build a replacement hospital in O'Fallon.

The charism of the Franciscan Sisters is to "reveal and embody Christ's healing love for all people through our high quality Franciscan Health care Ministry". As someone who watched the current St. Elizabeth's hospital being built, these sisters have been the revelation and embodiment of Christ's healing love for all who came to their door in Belleville. They turned no one away and will continue their health care ministry in a different way at St. Elizabeth's.

These Sisters have been pioneers in the health care system since they arrived in this country. When I visited their historic museum at their headquarters in Springfield, IL, I was moved by their vision, their mission and the embodiment of both. They paved the way for good health care in this country long before I was born.

Today they have a vision of how this will continue far into the future by building their new hospital in a location that is more accessible for many more people in the area. They are not neglecting those they currently serve. This site will be possible for them to attend.

I am a chaplain at St. Joseph's Hospital in Breese, IL. Recently I was called to the ER unit where two critically young men had to be transferred to St. Louis University Hospital. Since it was storming that morning, the helicopters were not flying. Two ambulances had to transport them to St. Louis. Both drivers asked me to pray for them because of the weather conditions and the heavy traffic they would meet. I thought how accessible the proposed site would have been for us that morning.

Please support this new St. Elizabeth's Hospital. Allow the pioneering spirit of these Franciscan sisters, who are so visionary regarding health care, to live on in this part of God's world.

Sincerely,

Joan Markus, ASND

October 21, 2014

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
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Dear Ms. Avery,

We are pleased to have the opportunity to share our support for St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plans to build a replacement hospital along Interstate 64.

Many members of our congregations have received care at St. Elizabeth's and benefited from the high-quality health care they provide to communities across the Metro East. We appreciate that for the past 140 years the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis have been committed to serving the sick, the poor and the disenfranchised and we support their mission "to reveal and embody Christ's healing love for all people."

We believe that in order for St. Elizabeth's to continue their healing ministry, they must change with the times and be allowed to build a new, modern hospital along I-64. The location they have chosen will actually be easier for many of our residents to reach because of the close proximity to the interstate. St. Elizabeth's is also committed to working with St. Clair county transit authorities to increase the number of bus routes serving the site. St. Elizabeth's existing campus is not located near main highways, which limits access for many of those living in underserved areas across the region.

Finally, we recognize that St. Elizabeth's has always, and will continue to care for all of God's brothers and sisters regardless of their ethnicity, race or economic status. All the residents of the Metro East region deserve better access to high-quality health care. They will get that level of care at a new St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

We respectfully ask the Review Board to approve St. Elizabeth's plans.

Sincerely,

Pastor Matthew Turner
Galilee Central Baptist Church

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OCT 27 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Robert W. Kueker
1143 Shadow Ridge Crossing
O'Fallon, Illinois 62269

October 20, 2014

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

RE: Support of Project #14-043 St. Elizabeth's Hospital's replacement hospital in
O'Fallon, Illinois

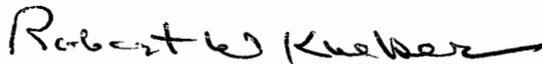
Dear Ms. Avery:

I am submitting this letter to express my support of St. Elizabeth's Hospital's above referenced plan to build a replacement hospital in O'Fallon.

I have lived in the O'Fallon area for nearly 67 years. My parents and grandparents lived in this area as well. When my father had a stroke we took him to St. Elizabeth's Hospital. I believe that his stroke would have been much less severe and debilitating if there had been faster access to an emergency room and a full service hospital. I am sure there are many similar examples of the need for more accessible health care in O'Fallon and the surrounding communities. The population of O'Fallon and the surrounding area has grown dramatically since I-64 was built through this area and now justifies the need of a full service hospital. The residents of O'Fallon and the immediately surrounding communities of Fairview Heights, Shiloh, Scott Air Force Base, Lebanon, Mascoutah Troy, Collinsville and Caseyville will benefit along with the entire Metro East Region from having St. Elizabeth's Hospital in this more accessible location.

Thank you for your consideration and I hope you vote in favor of this much needed project.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Kueker

Cc: St. Elizabeth's Hospital
Belleville, Illinois

October 21, 2014

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

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We respectfully ask the Review Board to approve St. Elizabeth's plans.

Sincerely,


Rev. Curtis Levingston
Mount Zion M.B. Church

OCT 27 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
St. Clair County Black Chamber of Commerce President Lee
Coleman
In Support of Project # 14-043, St. Elizabeth's Hospital –
Belleville
October 2, 2014

Good afternoon. I'm Lee Coleman, president of the St. Clair County Black Chamber of Commerce, and I support St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plans to build a replacement hospital along Interstate 64.

St. Clair County is home to many diverse communities. The families that patron our members' businesses come from a wide range of backgrounds, education levels and socioeconomic statuses. Regardless of those differentiating factors, Metro East residents all want access to first-rate health care in a modern full-service hospital.

Think of how often residents from our area have to decide where they will go to see specialists. Will they have to take Interstate 64 west to Missouri or can they go east on I-64 and stay in Illinois? With the proposed location of St. Elizabeth's full-service, modern hospital right off I-64, this decision will be easy.

The issue of accessibility is extremely important for our region's families with low incomes. A trip to the hospital incurs costs. It's travel expenses, it's child care; it's unpaid time away from work. We need to

St. Clair County Black Chamber of Commerce

4505 N. Illinois Street • Suite 9 • Swansea, IL 62226

be planning a future for our entire region that includes easier access to needed health care services.

At a time when our economy is still recovering, a project of this scale would be a much needed boost in employment. This construction project will create jobs. Once the hospital is open and operating, the increase in business to surrounding shops, restaurants and service stations will provide long-term jobs.

Just as St. Elizabeth's new hospital will better the health of our residents, it will better the health of our economy and the livelihood of all residents who call the Metro East home.

On behalf of the St. Clair County Black Chamber of Commerce, I am pleased to support this project and I ask that the Review Board approve St.