14-043

October 21, 2014

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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

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,

Rev. [illegible], Pastor
STRAIGHTWAY Baptist Church
Moderator at Large, New Salem Baptist District Association