

RECEIVED

NOV 25 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

November 20, 2014

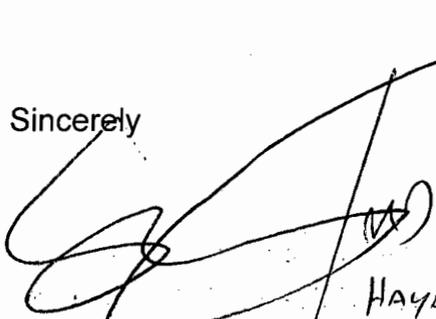
Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

I was pleased to learn of St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plans to build a region-leading, replacement hospital in O'Fallon. I am writing in support of this project. Currently Hospital Sisters Health System has identified a need for providing health care to the Southern Illinois region. As an emergency room provider I care for patients from a large area in Southern Illinois and we need a larger center to care for their needs in a better location. Years ago when the sisters first built a hospital in the area in the late 1800s the needs were for access to railroads and geographically critical areas at the time. However the needs have changed. Now it is important to be on a highway and be more available to other towns and cities. As a provider we need to be able to provide access to specialized care available only at facilities in Saint Louis. We also need to be more accessible to our patients in a timely manner. Saint Elizabeth's currently provides the best care in the region for heart attacks and strokes. We provide this to a large population outside of Belleville. In these medical conditions time is very important. We also currently have a building that was built for a different time when technology was not at the same level as it is currently. In order to provide care with the latest technology we need an updated building that would allow for better utilization of this technology and future advances. Currently I believe there is a high volume of patients in the Ofallon area that go to Saint Louis for their health care needs. We have an opportunity to provide care in Illinois rather than Saint Louis. This change in site and resources will allow for a larger number of patients to be serviced in Illinois rather than Missouri. As well it will allow for higher level of quality care in a more timely manner.

Sincerely


Hayden Smith MD
Emergency Medicine Provider

Hayden Smith, MD