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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Paris
Community
Hospital
Family
Medical
Center

March 25, 2015

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

Re: Project No. 15-002

Dear Ms. Olson,

I write in support of the proposal by Carle Foundation Hospital to build a new Orthopedics and Sports Medicine facility because it will enhance care for those patients in the region who require this treatment.

I am a primary care physician based in Paris, Illinois, and I rely upon physicians at Carle when my patients require an additional level of specialized care not available at our critical access hospital in Edgar County. Our hospital has an orthopedic surgeon on our medical staff; however, we often have patients who need the advanced treatment and surgical interventions that are not available in Paris, but which Carle can provide. Over the last few years, my level of collaboration with Carle physicians has increased substantially and I regularly refer my patients to Carle physicians for specialized care that is not available in this community.

For those injuries or conditions requiring specialized treatment, Carle physicians have the expertise to address care needs. Carle offers comprehensive orthopedic and sports medicine care including foot and ankle, sports medicine, adult reconstruction and orthopedic trauma services to support all aspects of orthopedic care and its Level I Trauma Center designation. Additionally, Carle Sports Medicine partners with more than 20 area high schools to provide strength and conditioning programs, physician evaluations, injury prevention and education. It also has collegiate partnerships with Parkland College and the University of Illinois, as well as various club programs in the area. The patients requiring orthopedic services benefit by receiving care from Carle providers, which has been recognized by HealthGrades with five-star ratings three years in a row for hip replacement surgery. Those hospitals with five-star ratings had statistically significantly better patient outcomes.

It is important that Carle doctors can provide this care in a facility that is easily reached at a central location near major roads and interstates for my patients who will travel. The facility should also be accessible for those patients who have mobility challenges. A clinic at Carle that is specifically designed to care for orthopedic patients will serve needs of my current patients and ensure that there is appropriate room for future expansion to address patient needs in the future. The proposed Orthopedic and Sports Medicine facility will provide important services not only for those in Champaign-Urbana and the surrounding communities, but also for patients in outlying communities like mine.

I encourage the planning board to approve Carle Foundation Hospital's request to build this much-needed facility, which will centralize and advance orthopedic care for those throughout the region.

Thank you for your consideration,

Leland A. Phipps, MD
Paris Family Medical Center
217-465-2606 x567
lphipps@pchfmc.com

Paris Community Hospital
721 East Court Street
Paris, Illinois 61944

Phone: (217) 465-4141

Family Medical Center
727 East Court Street
Paris, Illinois 61944

Phone: (217) 465-8411

Family Medical Center
112 West Madison Avenue
Chrisman, Illinois 61924

Phone: (217) 269-2394

Family Medical Center
104 East Buena Vista Avenue
Kansas, Illinois 61933

Phone: (217) 948-5905

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