RONALD MCDONALD
HOUSE CHARITIES
MADISON

RECEIVED
OCT 27 2015
HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

October 23, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Madison and Rockford Health System have a long partnership in our shared mission of providing for the health, wellness and wellbeing of children in need and their families, regardless of their ability to pay. I am writing to express strong support for the MercyRockford plans to build a state-of-the-art Women's and Children's hospital, to enhance clinical programs and increase regional access via its location on the interstate highway. We support these plans because they will provide updated facilities for the existing regionally designated perinatal and pediatric programs offered by MercyRockford. It will also enable MercyRockford to recruit additional pediatric specialties and grow programs to serve patients close to home.

We recognize the two-state geographic footprint of the new MercyRockford partnership and know that the new Women's and Children's Hospital will serve not only the 11-county region in northern Illinois but also a number counties in southern Wisconsin. For that reason we are engaged with MercyRockford to begin ***exploration of plans to build a Ronald McDonald House on the E. Riverside Blvd. campus.*** A Ronald McDonald House would provide a place for families from throughout the region to stay, at no cost, when their babies are in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit or their children are hospitalized. If plans for the development of the Riverside Campus are approved, MercyRockford Health System has committed to helping to raise the funds to build a Ronald McDonald House on the campus.

In 2003, we began our partnership with Rockford Memorial Hospital to operate the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile, a 40-foot-long pediatric clinic on wheels that delivers free medical and

2716 MARSHALL COURT • MADISON, WI 53705 • PHONE: 608-232-4660 • FAX: 608-232-4670 • www.rmhcmadison.org
Printed on recycled paper

dental care to children in Winnebago, Boone, Lee, Ogle and Stephenson Counties. The vehicle houses two patient examination rooms, a laboratory, a reception area and a medical records area. A team of medical professionals, including a nurse practitioner, a dentist and a dental assistant, travel on the Care Mobile. Staff members on the Care Mobile also help enroll children in the State of Illinois All Kids Medicaid Program.

Ronald McDonald House Charities, Global donated the Care Mobile vehicle to Rockford Memorial. The hospital operates the program and helps provide charitable funding. In fact, the operations of the Care Mobile are completely funded by charitable donations, including annual grants from Ronald McDonald House Charities of Madison, the Rockford Memorial Hospital Auxiliary and the Rockford Memorial Development Foundation. In its 12 years of operation, the Care Mobile has provided more **10,000 free medical and dental visits**, totalling **more *than $1.8 million in free medical and dental care*** for kids. Clearly, Rockford Health System – now part of MercyRockford – has a deep commitment to serving children in need in Rockford and the region.

For its commitment to providing excellent healthcare to children and support for families, we enthusiastically support the MercyRockford plans and urge their approval.

Kevin Huddleston

Executive Director

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Madison

2716 Marshall Court • Madison, WI 53705 • Phone: 608-232-4660 • Fax: 608-232-4670 • www.rmhcmadison.org

Printed on recycled paper

CARRIE LYNN
CHILDREN'S
CENTER

A program of Carrie Lynn Children's Center, Inc.

23 October 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery; Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery,

As the Director of the Carrie Lynn Children's Center, I am writing this letter in support of MercyRockford Health System's three applications.

As a Children's Advocacy Center, our focus is on child welfare. Therefore, we are always in support of development that will strengthen access to services for the underserved populations in our community; namely children and families.

It is my understanding that the residents of the west side of Rockford will continue to be able to access necessary medical services under MercyRockford's plan. This plan, while proposing new services, demonstrates MercyRockford's continued commitment to the services on the west side. This is a critical plan component for our agency as the majority of our clients live on the west side of Rockford. In fact, our agency is located on the west side.

However, I am excited that the MercyRockford plan seeks to introduce new services into our community with the introduction of a new facility designed to accommodate state-of-the-art technologies. The MercyRockford services are essential to our community and this will allow them to expand services while maintaining their stated commitment to this community and the west side of Rockford.

Very truly yours,

Kathryn Pomahac
Executive Director

Carrie Lynn Children's Center, Inc. • 826 N. Main Street • Rockford, IL 61103
Ph: (815) 319-4150 • Fax: (815) 319-4151

October 13, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

On behalf of the Rockford Housing Authority we are writing in support of the three applications submitted by MercyRockford Health System. The Rockford Housing Authority proudly serves the community of Rockford providing housing for nearly 8,000 area citizens in our area though 1920 public housing and 1800 Section 8 subsidized units.

The Rockford Housing Authority is strongly supportive of initiatives, like the MercyRockford projects, that will help insure access to care for the residents of our community. In particular, the Housing Authority is concerned about those residents who access care provided on Rockford Memorial Hospital's existing campus. Many of these residents rely on Medicaid to support their care and we support MercyRockford's plans to continue to provide necessary services at the N. Rockton Avenue campus.

We support MercyRockford's commitment to the N. Rockton Ave. campus and the continuation of inpatient and outpatient behavioral health care, primary and specialty physician care, walk-in and after hours convenient care, surgical services, intensive care as well as medical/surgical hospital beds, state-of-the-art cancer care, and a 24/7/365 comprehensive emergency department staffed by highly trained Emergency Medicine physicians. This is a significant commitment to our community and for our residents. We have seen that other hospital systems in the state have relocated healthcare services without continuing to provide the same level of care that will be provided through the MercyRockford plans. Thank you for your consideration of our support.

Very truly yours,

Jerry Lumpkins
Chairman of the Board of Commissioners

Ron Clewer
Chief Executive Officer

223 S. Winnebago St.
Rockford, Illinois 61102
815-489-8500 *(office)*

ROCKFORDHA.ORG

October 20, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

The Northwestern Illinois Area Agency on Aging (NIAAA) is supporting the MercyRockford Health System's three applications listed above that have been filed with your agency. NIAAA is a regional nonprofit designated by the Illinois Department on Aging to represent the interests of 145,000 older adults in the nine counties that comprise northwestern Illinois.

NIAAA is supporting the applications because they will strengthen access to care for our community and the region.

Along with other employers in the greater Rockford community, NIAAA is strongly supportive of projects that will trigger economic growth and create additional investment in our community. NIAAA is delighted to know that, as part of the merger of Mercy Health System and Rockford Health System, the new merged entity will be based in Illinois and has chosen to invest in significant improvement to the Rockton Avenue Campus and to develop needed services at the Rockford Memorial Hospital's Riverside Campus. These initiatives will result in additional job growth in our community and significant ancillary economic benefits. Moreover, I anticipate that these projects will help to stop the outmigration of patients to Wisconsin for services. Those services, when provided in Illinois, will help strengthen the economic climate in our community.

In particular, the residents of the west side of Rockford will, according to the MercyRockford plan, continue to be able to access necessary services. In particular, NIAAA is concerned about access to emergency services, convenient care services, and inpatient services. This plan, while proposing new services at the Riverside Boulevard site, demonstrates MercyRockford's continued commitment to continuing these necessary services on the west side.

Northwestern Illinois Area Agency on Aging
1111 S. Alpine Road ■ Rockford, IL 61108 ■ (815) 226-4901
(815) 226-8984 Fax ■ www.nwilaaa.org

Not only will MercyRockford's plans create needed, state-of-the-art facilities on the E. Riverside Blvd. campus, but the regional economic vitality of that campus, including attracting patients from Wisconsin, will enable MercyRockford to make continued investments in its current campus on N. Rockton Ave.

MercyRockford's commitments to ongoing care on the N. Rockton Ave. campus include 94 hospital beds; inpatient and outpatient behavioral health; continued care by a full range of primary care physicians including ob/gyn, pediatrics, family practice and internal medicine; continued care by specialty physicians including cardiology, oncology, neurology and others; a full-service comprehensive emergency department staffed by the same ED physicians and trauma nurses as the E. Riverside Blvd. campus; a state-of-the-art cancer center; surgery services; and intensive care beds.

MercyRockford's significant commitment to continued services in the current location is unlike other Illinois hospitals that have built new campuses, leaving almost nothing in their old locations.

NIAAA is pleased that this plan proposes the introduction of modern facilities designed to accommodate state-of-the-art technologies. I know that keeping pace with medical technological advances is essential to stop out-migration for healthcare services. Rockford Memorial's neonatal, high-risk maternity, and pediatric intensive care services are essential – not only to Rockford – but to all of northwestern Illinois. They are the only health system in the region to provide this care.

At a time in which many organizations and businesses are choosing to exit Illinois or postpone investments in our State, NIAAA is heartened that MercyRockford has chosen to "put their money where their mouth is" and invest in Rockford and Illinois.

This $400 million investment is the biggest project in the Rockford area's history. It respects the legacy of care on the west side of Rockford at the same time it provides for updated facilities to serve Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin in a conveniently accessible location off I-90. Our community and our region deserve to have excellent healthcare facilities and could greatly benefit from this huge economic boost.

Sincerely,

Grant Nyhammer,
Executive Director & General Counsel

NIAAA ■ 1111 S. Alpine Road ■ Rockford, IL 61108 ■ (815) 226-4901
(815) 226-8984 Fax ■ www.nwilaaa.org ■

International Brotherhood Electrical Workers

Local Union 364

6820 Mill Road • Rockford, IL 61108
Telephone (815) 398-6282
Fax (815) 398-1203

October 21, 2015

Dear Ms. Avery:

IBEW Local Union 364 is submitting this letter in support of MercyRockford Health System's three applications.

Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

I am strongly supportive of MercyRockford's applications that have been filed with your agency. The necessary development of the Rockton Avenue campus and the Riverside campus will strengthen access to care for our community and the region.

Along with other employers in the greater Rockford community, I am strongly supportive of projects that will trigger economic growth and create additional investment in our community. I am delighted to know that, as part of the merger of Mercy Health System and Rockford Health System, the new merged entity will be based in Illinois and has chosen to invest in significant improvement to the Rockton Avenue Campus and to develop needed services at the Rockford Memorial Hospital's Riverside Campus. These initiatives will result in additional job growth in our community and significant ancillary economic benefits. Moreover, I anticipate that these projects will help to stop the outmigration of patients to Wisconsin for services. Those services, when provided in Illinois, will help strengthen the economic climate in our community.

In particular, the residents of the west side of Rockford will, according to the Mercy Rockford plan, continue to be able to access necessary services. In particular, I am concerned about access to emergency services, convenient care services, and inpatient services. This plan, while proposing new services at the Riverside Boulevard site, demonstrates MercyRockford's continued commitment to continuing these necessary services on the west side.

Not only will MercyRockford's plans create needed, state-of-the-art facilities on the East Riverside Boulevard campus, but the regional economic vitality of that campus, including attracting patients from Wisconsin, will enable MercyRockford to make continued investments in its current campus on North Rockton Avenue.

MercyRockford's commitments to ongoing care on the North Rockton Avenue campus include 94 hospital beds; inpatient and outpatient behavioral health; continued care by a full range of primary care physicians including ob/gyn, pediatrics, family practice and internal medicine; continued care by specialty physicians including cardiology, oncology, neurology and others; a full-service comprehensive emergency department staffed by the same ED physicians and trauma nurses as the East Riverside Boulevard campus; a state-of-the-art cancer center; surgery services; and intensive care beds.

MercyRockford's significant commitment to continued services in the current location is unlike other Illinois hospitals that have built new campuses, leaving almost nothing in their old locations.

I am pleased that this plan proposes the introduction of modern facilities designed to accommodate state-of-the-art technologies. I know that keeping pace with medical technological advances is essential to stop out-migration for healthcare services. Rockford Memorial's neonatal, high-risk maternity, and pediatric intensive care services are essential – not only to Rockford – but to all of northwestern Illinois. They are the only health system in the region to provide this care.

At a time in which many organizations and businesses are choosing to exit Illinois or postpone investments in our State, I am heartened that MercyRockford has chosen to "put their money where their mouth is" and invest in Rockford and Illinois.

This $400 million investment is the biggest project in the Rockford area's history. It respects the legacy of care on the west side of Rockford at the same time it provides for updated facilities to serve Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin in a conveniently accessible location off I-90. Our community and our region deserve to have excellent healthcare facilities and could greatly benefit from this huge economic boost.

This plan will not only create construction jobs but new healthcare jobs as we keep more patients in our community and bring new patients to our specialty referral hospital campus.

Thank you.

Alan R Golden

Alan R. Golden
Business Manager and Financial Secretary
Local Union 364, IBEW

CENTER FOR Sight & Hearing

October 20, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Our mission is to help individuals with a vision and/or hearing loss enhance their quality of life and live independently.

Affiliated with:

Helen Keller National Center Sands Point, NY

Illinois District 1-D Lions Clubs

Select programs are accredited through:

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

This letter is submitted in support of MercyRockford Health System's three applications.

The Center for Sight & Hearing (Center) is a not for profit whose mission is to *help individuals with vision and/or hearing loss enhance their quality of life and live independently*. The Center has been providing vision and hearing services to northwestern Illinois and southern Wisconsin for over 50 years. Over the years the Center has worked collaboratively with MercyRockford through presentations, providing sign language interpreting services, and providing knowledge and expertise in areas vision/hearing as needed. Also, the Center has been fortunate in the past to have MercyRockford employees as Center Board members.

The Rockford community and surrounding areas continue to need the services provided by MercyRockford. The Center support the plans to continue vital health care services at the N. Rockton Ave. campus. Building a state-of-the art regional referral hospital for women's and children's and other intensive care services is important to the community as well.

The Center Board of Director's and I are supportive of MercyRockford's commitment to continue public access to necessary services (emergency services, convenient care services, and inpatient services) at the N. Rockton Ave. location as well as widening the healthcare service base at a new location at the Riverside Boulevard site. This MercyRockford endeavor demonstrates continued commitment to necessary services on the west side and an extended modern campus on the east side of Rockford designed to accommodate women and children services with state-of-the-art technologies.

The Center for Sight & Hearing's Board of Directors and myself supports and looks forward to MercyRockford Health System's projects.

Sincerely,

Diane Jones
President

8038 MacIntosh Lane, P.O. Box 5944, Rockford, Illinois 61125-0944 • Website www.centerforsighthearing.org
(815) 332-6800 Voice • (815) 332-6820 TTY • (800) 545-0080 • (815) 332-6810 Fax • (815) 580-0023 VP

Northwestern Illinois Building and Construction Trades Council

AFFILIATED WITH THE
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES DEPT.
AFL-CIO

212 South First Street, Suite 106
Rockford, Illinois 61104

Telephone (815) 965-2282 (BCTC)
Fax (815) 965-2277

October 15, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
IL Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery,

This letter is in support of the above-listed MercyRockford Health System applications recently submitted to your agency.

I am the president of the Northwestern Illinois Building and Construction Trades Council, which represents 15,000 journeymen and women in eight northwestern Illinois counties. Over the course of many years, the Building Trades and Rockford Memorial Hospital have developed a great partnership, and both Mercy and Rockford Memorial Hospitals have an established history of utilizing local union contractors who employ our local journeymen and women. Necessary remodels and new construction at both RMH and Mercy facilities have provided our members with countless work hours at a living wage, retirement benefits and most importantly, health insurance which has enabled them to provide for their families with dignity. It has been a difficult five or six years for the construction industry and for the Rockford region economically, but news of the Mercy/RMH merger and the construction of a new $400M campus gives hope to our members and our community that there is potential for a better future.

We are excited about the improved health care access for our members, the expansion of regional clinical programs that this facility can bring to our area, and the domino effect it will have on economic development in our region. We urge you to approve all three applications for the betterment of our community.

Sincerely,

Brad Long
President

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
AT ROCKFORD

MERIT PROGRAM

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am a pediatrician with Rockford Health System, a Faculty Member of the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford, and the Medical Director of the Medical Evaluation Response Initiative Team **(MERIT)** program. MERIT is a collaborative program, organized under the auspices of University of Illinois College of Medicine - Rockford (UICOM-R) and housed at the Rockford Health System N. Rockton Ave. campus, which provides medical exams for children who are victims of abuse.

This letter is submitted in support of MercyRockford Health System's three applications and its leading role as a provider of medical services to children in the region, including children who are abused and at risk.

Rockford Health System provides support that enables me to serve as medical director for the MERIT program and also provides a grant through the Rockford Memorial Development Foundation to help fund the operation of the program. Medical exams of abused children are primarily provided for cases originating in Winnebago and Boone counties. MERIT works closely with the Carrie Lynn Center, local DCFS, Law enforcement, and the State's Attorney to process cases as the facts are determined. The program also has a large educational component. MERIT personnel reach out to judges, hospital exam room personnel, physicians and other providers to help inform them about identifying and assessing these types of cases. In addition, medical students, family practice residents and advanced nurse practitioner students rotate through the program to learn about these types of cases.

MERIT provides expert medical evaluations and consultations children aged 17 and under for sexual abuse cases, physical abuse cases--including, but not limited to, head injuries, bone fractures, internal injuries, burns--and severe neglect cases that are under Investigation for child maltreatment. Referrals are accepted from appropriate

sources-law Enforcement (LE), State's Attorney, DCFS, primary care providers, ER providers and CACs.

I am strongly supportive of initiatives, like the MercyRockford projects, that will help insure access to care for the residents of our community, particularly children. I am grateful that MercyRockford's plans insure the continued vitality of the N. Rockton Avenue campus where I practice and the continued provision of compassionate, professional medical care for children who are victims of physical abuse, sexual abuse or neglect. I urge you to approve the MercyRockford applications.

Sincerely,

Ray Davis, M.D.
Medical Director
MERIT

ROCKFORD
UNIVERSITY
1847

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

This letter is submitted in support of MercyRockford Health System's three applications.

I am the Director of the MBA program at Rockford University. I am also a professor at RU. I know if it is important to me in my efforts to recruit graduate students to this program that they have access to quality health care in all regions of the area. The new MerceyRockford facility on Riverside Blvd. on the far north east side of Rockford will fill a gap for people who live or want to relocate to that area. This new facility along with the continued development of the Rockton Avenue campus will strengthen access to healthcare for your community and the region.

I am pleased that this plan proposes the introduction of modern facilities designed to accommodate state-of-the-art technologies. I know that keeping pace with medical technological advances is essential to stop out-migration for healthcare services. MercyRockford's neonatal, high-risk maternity, and pediatric intensive care services are essential – not only to Rockford – but to all of northwestern Illinois. They are the only health system in the region to provide this care. Additionally, this plan will not only create construction jobs but new healthcare jobs as we keep more patients in our community and bring new patients to our specialty referral hospital campus.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey W. Fahrenwald, Director
Rockford University, PURI Business School MBA

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

This letter is submitted in support of MercyRockford Health System's three applications.

My name is Arles Hendershott Love, a longtime resident of Rockford's northwest side, and I have been involved with many nonprofit organizations serving the area's most vulnerable citizens for over 30 years.

I have seen the medical needs of this community, esp. for Rockford's west side, and as a result I strongly support MercyRockford's applications that have been filed with your agency. The necessary development of the Rockton Avenue campus and the Riverside campus will strengthen access to care for everyone in the community and region. The plans will allow residents of the west side of Rockford to be able to access necessary and critical medical services. This plan, while proposing new services at the Riverside Boulevard site, demonstrates MercyRockford's continued commitment to the continuing these necessary services on the west side.

I am pleased that this plan proposes the introduction of modern facilities designed to accommodate state-of-the-art technologies, without forgetting and abandoning their old patient base who call the west side of Rockford home. I know that keeping pace with medical technological advances is essential to stop out-migration for healthcare services. Rockford Memorial's neonatal, high-risk maternity, and pediatric intensive care services are essential – not only to Rockford – but to all of northwestern Illinois.

At a time in which many organizations and businesses are choosing to exit Illinois or postpone investments in our State, I am very happy that MercyRockford has chosen to "put their money where their mouth is" and invest in Rockford and Illinois.

Thank you.
Sincerely,

Arles Hendershott Love

Arles Hendershott Love
1739 Cumberland Street
Rockford, Il 61103

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

This letter is submitted in support of MercyRockford Health System's three applications.

My name is Matthew Dodaro, M.D. and I am the Director of Radiological Services/Medical Imaging at MercyRockford Health System. I have been a practicing radiologist in the city of Rockford for over seven years.

We sincerely believe that both the preservation of the N. Rockton Ave. campus and also the building of a state-of-the art regional referral hospital for women's and children's and other intensive care services would be of great benefit to the Greater Rockford area and the surrounding Northern Illinois. The new eastside campus would allow for more convenient access in a closer proximity for the much needed children's and women's services. And the west side campus would allow for continuing care to a population in need.

The introduction of modern facilities designed to accommodate state-of-the-art technologies. This cannot be accomplished in a 60 year-old infrastructure. We know that keeping pace with medical technological advances is essential to stop the exodus from Rockford and Northern Illinois for healthcare services. Rockford Memorial's neonatal, high-risk maternity, and pediatric intensive care services are essential, both to all of Rockford and all of northwestern Illinois. They are the only health system in the region to provide this care.

The merger of Mercy Health System and Rockford Health System has reinvigorated a previously lagging health system. The new merged entity is based in Illinois and has chosen to invest in significant improvement to the Rockton Avenue Campus and to develop needed services at the Rockford Memorial Hospital's Riverside Campus. These initiatives will result in additional job growth in our community and significant ancillary economic benefits. Those services, when provided in Illinois, will help strengthen the economic climate in the this local community.

It is reassuring to us, and hopefully to you, that the residents of the west side of Rockford will, according to the MercyRockford plan, continue to be able to access necessary services. In particular, I am concerned about access to emergency services, convenient care services, and inpatient services. This plan demonstrates MercyRockford's continued commitment to continuing these necessary services on the west side.

This $400 million investment is reported to be the biggest project in the Rockford area's history. It respects the long served population and continues a legacy of care on the west side of

Rockford. At the same time it provides for updated facilities to serve Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin in a conveniently accessible location off I-90. Our whole Northern Illinois community and region deserve to have the excellent healthcare facilities this will provides and will greatly benefit from this significant economic contribution. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Matthew Dodaro, M.D.

Matthew Dodaro, M.D.
Director of Radiological Services/Medical Imaging
MercyRockford Health System

ROCKFORD SPINE CENTER

2902 MCFARLAND ROAD • ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61107 • PHONE 815/316-2100 • FAX 815/316-2099 • rockfordspine.com

October 21, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

This letter is submitted in support of MercyRockford Health System's three applications.

I am an orthopedic spine surgeon who started the Rockford Spine Center. We are a regional referral area for university level reconstructive spine surgery. In our facility we have seven physicians, a nurse practitioner and three physician assistants who are all clinicians who provide care in regards to spine evaluation, treatment and pain management procedures, as well as spinal surgical procedures at the hospitals. Amongst all our care providers we see approximately 4000 patient visits per year and perform close to 1000 surgeries per year. Our referral base is from Wisconsin, Iowa, and Norther Illinois including Chicago and Madison areas and as far south as Peoria.

The physicians of Rockford Spine Center are recognized nationally and internationally as experts in spinal reconstructive surgery and as a group we have published multiple research and scientific articles and provide university level services to the Northern Illinois community.

I am strongly supportive of MercyRockford's applications that have been filed with your agency. I think it would be critical to develop a modern treatment facility here in Rockford that is close to the interstate to allow greater access for the large volume of regional referrals that we currently receive. The most complex surgical procedures are preferentially performed currently at MercyRockford Health Systems; however, the campus is aging, in great need of updating, and to a certain extent the facilities are beyond updating and need replacement. To the extent that a new location would be a great benefit for regional referrals as well as building of the new facility to allow updated operating theaters and other supportive services to continue supporting the regional several state area that we currently serve.

Further, I believe the MercyRockford Health Systems sustaining a clinic on the west side of Rockford will continue to serve the residents of the west side of Rockford; however, a new facility at the proposed location of Riverside and Interstate 90 would not only benefit providing care to

MICHAEL S. ROH, M.D. CHRISTOPHER D. SLIVA, M.D. FRED A. SWEET, M.D. MARIE A. WALKER, M.D.

the eastern side of Rockford, but also significantly improves the accessibility for our volume of regional referrals and as such would have a significantly positive financial impact on Rockford as a whole as well as the Northern Illinois region in regards to construction, support services, hospital personnel, and development of those same services. Additionally, improving our regional services will allow us to not only continue serving patients who are in need of these advanced services here in the Rockford area and preventing an outflow to areas such as Madison, Wisconsin, but also increase the influx of patients from out-of-state area as well as the Northern Illinois regional area to the Rockford area.

I would like to point out that moving services to the proposed location is a relatively short distance and should not affect access for anybody here in the Rockford area to any appreciable degree but has the added benefit of improving regional access. At a time when economic conditions in Illinois are becoming critical with businesses leaving the state, I think the proposal for Mercy/Rockford Health Systems construction of a new hospital facility is a step in the right direction at keeping jobs in Northern Illinois as well as business and promoting further growth in the health industry and as a whole is a definite positive for Illinois as a state and definitely for Rockford in the region.

If you have any other questions in regards to this proposal or the Rockford Spine Center's support of building a new facility, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Fred A. Sweet, M.D.
President, Rockford Spine Center
Assistant Clinical Professor of Surgery, University of Illinois Rockford Campus

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

Our daughter was born at 24 weeks 3 days gestation and only weighed 15.5 ounces. Thankfully she was born at Rockford Memorial Hospital and was in great hands from the moment she arrived. We spent 137 days in the NICU and became very close with the staff. Our daughter is now 19 months old and thriving! Without the wonderful and very skilled staff at RMH, our miracle would not be with us today.

We support the facility plan because RMH provides an outstanding level of care and deserves modern facilities that match that level of care. We also feel as the pediatric leader, Rockford Memorial serves patients from a wide region and needs to be more regionally accessible.

Sincerely,

Toby and Ashley Johnson and their RMH miracle, Ava

2335 Cornell Drive
Rockford, IL 61108

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Brett Flannery, and I am writing on behalf of our family in support of the new facilities plan for Rockford Memorial Hospital. Our journey with RMH started in August 2nd, 2011 when our twins were born way too early at 23 weeks and 5 days gestation. Our daughter Faith passed away after 3 days of fighting, and our son Evan spent the next 7 months in the NICU. There were a lot of touch and go moments with Evan but he is now a happy healthy 4 year old.

In those 7 months we there every day for several hours a day so we got to know all the staff and other families very well. The care we received from them was outstanding. Evan, and by extension us, became part of their family and they became part of ours.

Based on the experience we had in the NICU along with knowing the experiences other families in the NICU went though, we support the new facilities plan for two main reasons

- While the care we received was outstanding, the facilities were not set up in a way to best allow the development of the smallest of baby's brains. The environment was just too bright and noisy for those young brains development, despite the staff's best efforts to keep it quiet and dark. Evan's biggest issue today is sensory processing and studies have shown that an overly stimulating environment during critical brain development can lead to sensory processing difficulties. A modern facility designed around those critical issues can help give the next generation of NICU babies a heather development environment.

- The current location is not accessible for a lot of families from out of town. There is no good way to get to the current RMH campus. We were lucky enough to live in town and could be there every day, but several families that we became friends with did not have that luxury and could only come to see their children on the weekends because of the travel time and work schedules. I can't imagine not being able to see my child every day. Moving to a location close to the expressway will allow families to be able to see their children more often.

Thank you for your consideration
Brett, Angie, and Evan Flannery
5831 Heatherwood Ln
Rockford IL, 61109

Northwestern Mutual
FINANCIAL NETWORK®

Kerry A. Schaible
Financial Representative

7025 Rote Rd
Rockford, IL 61107
815 398 6636 office
kerry.schaible@nmfn.com
www.nmfn.com/kerryschaible

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

This letter is submitted in support of MercyRockford Health System's three applications.

My name is Kerry Schaible, a financial advisor with Northwestern Mutual in Rockford, IL.

I am pleased that this plan proposes the introduction of modern facilities designed to accommodate state-of-the-art technologies. I know that keeping pace with medical technological advances is essential to stop out-migration for healthcare services.

In particular, the residents of the west side of Rockford will, according to the MercyRockford plan, continue to be able to access necessary services. Thus, avoiding a "health care desert." Without the west side location, I am concerned about access to emergency services, convenient care services, and inpatient services. This plan, while proposing new services at the Riverside Boulevard site, demonstrates MercyRockford's continued commitment to the continuing these necessary services on the west side. MercyRockford's significant commitment to continued services in the current location is unlike other Illinois hospitals that have built new campuses, leaving almost nothing in their old locations. Worse yet leaving large abandoned facilities.

At a time in which many organizations and businesses are choosing to exit Illinois or postpone investments in our State, I am heartened that MercyRockford has chosen to "put their money where their mouth is" and invest in Rockford and Illinois, without leaving a void (abandoned buildings/ health care desert) on our west side.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Kerry Schaible

Kerry Schaible CLU, RICP, CLTC

Northwestern Mutual Financial Network is the marketing name for the sales and distribution arm of The Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, Milwaukee, WI (NM), and its subsidiaries and affiliates. Kerry Allen Schaible is an Insurance Agent of NM (life insurance, annuities and disability income insurance) and Northwestern Long Term Care Insurance Company, Milwaukee, WI, a subsidiary of NM (long-term care insurance), and a Registered Representative of Northwestern Mutual Investment Services, LLC, a wholly-owned company of NM, broker-dealer and member FINRA and SIPC. NM is not a broker-dealer. There may be instances when this agent represents insurance companies in addition to NM or its affiliates.

ROCKFORD HEALTH
system

Rockford Memorial Hospital
Hospital – Auxiliary – Community
Tel. 815-971-6284

October 21, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System – Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

This letter is submitted in support of MercyRockford Health System's three applications.

My name is Libby Clark. I have volunteered at Rockford Memorial Hospital for 8 ½ years and I am the current President of the Rockford Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. I was born at Rockford Memorial Hospital, grew up on the west side of Rockford and attended grades 1 – 12 at west side schools. My allegiance is and has always been to the west side of Rockford.

I believe that the merger between Mercy Health System and Rockford Health System is the most exciting health care development to happen in the Rockford community, greater northern Illinois/southern Wisconsin region in the last 130 years, since the two hospitals were founded. My family still lives on the west side of Rockford and I am pleased with the MercyRockford plans to continue and improve ALL vital health care services at the N. Rockton Avenue campus. Additionally, I am extremely happy with the $8 million dollar/year commitment and inclusion of the following services to the N. Rockton Avenue campus:

- Comprehensive Department
- Convenient Care walk-in clinic
- 94 bed adult inpatient hospital beds
- Surgical services
- State-of-the art, comprehensive cancer center
- Outpatient behavioral health services

I am also pleased with the "One Hospital on Two Campuses" Plan. A destination campus at I-90 and E. Riverside Blvd. will provide greater regional access for the high risk maternity, neonatal intensive care, pediatrics and pediatric critical care, adult critical care and trauma patients.

And finally, with the vast number of businesses and organizations leaving Illinois, it is tremendously heartening to have the possibility of MercyRockford Health System, One Hospital on Two Campuses, in Rockford, Illinois!

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,
Libby Clark
Libby Clark
Rockford Memorial Auxiliary President

Surgical Associates of Northern Illinois

GENERAL • VASCULAR • THORACIC • BREAST

Mark D. Zarnke, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Michael J. McCarthy, D.O., F.A.C.S.
Michael C. Michelotti, M.D., F.A.C.S.

2350 N. Rockton Avenue
Suite 510
Rockford, IL 61103
Phone 815/963-3426
Fax 815/963-3428

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

This letter is submitted in support of MercyRockford Health System's three applications.

We are an independent general surgical group consisting of 3 board certified general surgeons. Our office is based on the campus of Rockford Memorial Hospital. We provide a broad range of surgical services including elective surgery, emergency and trauma services here on the west side of the city. Our surgeons are concerned that without new operative services construction, we will not be able to provide the state of art services to our patients. Due to building constraints the current facility is unable to accommodate acceptable standards for patient privacy, operating room size and modern inpatient rooms. The only solution is a new hospital. We have dedicated our careers to caring for the people on the west side of town and support the plans to continue vital health care services on the N. Rockton Ave. campus. We also support building a state-of-the art regional referral hospital for women's and children's and other intensive care services.

MercyRockford's significant commitment to continued services in the current location is unlike other Illinois hospitals that have built new campuses, leaving almost nothing their old locations.

We are pleased that this plan will give the region a modern facility designed to accommodate state-of –the-art technologies. The way we deliver health care is changing rapidly and, without us also changing, we will not be able to provide these services and our patients will be forced to go elsewhere.

MercyRockford has decided to make a 400 million investment in Rockford and Illinois. We strongly support that decision.

Very truly yours,

Michael J McCarthy DO FACOS

ROCKFORD ORTHOPEDIC

October 22, 2015

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

RE: Letter of Support for MercyRockford Health System – Project Numbers 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

This letter is submitted in support of MercyRockford Health System's three applications.

Rockford Orthopedic Associates, Ltd. is a subspecialty practice comprised of 23 surgeons, seven non-operative physicians, and four clinic locations in Rockford, Crystal Lake and Huntley, Illinois. The practice has served the musculoskeletal needs of northern Illinois residents since 1967.

During this tenure, Rockford Orthopedic, along with other community physicians and health care services have enjoyed a strong and supportive partnership with Rockford Health System in serving the health needs of our community. As MercyRockford Health System, the organization is demonstrating significant commitment and investment in our community and the northern Illinois region with these initiatives.

Specifically, this $400 million investment is the biggest in Rockford's history, bringing much need job creation and economic stimulation to our region while strengthening access to state-of-the-art technologies and care for community and regional members. The organization's plans accommodate the addition of an off I-90 facility that can help stem the current outflow of patients to Wisconsin and attract new regional patients yet continue to maintain and invest in its current Rockton Avenue campus.

ROCKFORD ORTHOPEDIC ASSOCIATES, LTD 324 ROXBURY ROAD ROCKFORD IL 61107 PHONE 815.398.9491 FAX: 815.381.7498
ROCKFORDORTHO.COM

On behalf of all the physicians of Rockford Orthopedic, I offer our full support of MercyRockford Health System's plans to invest in improvements to its current facility and develop needed new services with the construction of a Riverside campus to further expand access to the high standard of care for which it has earned a solid reputation. MercyRockford's thoughtful plans for investment in Rockford and Illinois bring measureable value and benefit to all stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Don Schreiner
Chief Executive Officer
Rockford Orthopedic Associates, Ltd.

Brian Bear, M.D.
President
Rockford Orthopedic Associates, Ltd.

Northwestern Mutual®

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

This letter is submitted in support of MercyRockford Health System's three applications.

My name is Kimberly Rosenberger, a financial Representative with Northwestern Mutual in Rockford, IL.

I am pleased that this plan proposes the introduction of modern facilities designed to accommodate state-of-the-art technologies. I know that keeping pace with medical technological advances is essential to stop out-migration for healthcare services.

In particular, the residents of the west side of Rockford will, according to the MercyRockford plan, continue to be able to access necessary services. Thus, avoiding a "health care desert." Without the west side location, I am concerned about access to emergency services, convenient care services, and inpatient services. This plan, while proposing new services at the Riverside Boulevard site, demonstrates MercyRockford's continued commitment to the continuing these necessary services on the west side. MercyRockford's significant commitment to continued services in the current location is unlike other Illinois hospitals that have built new campuses, leaving almost nothing in their old locations. Worse yet leaving large abandoned facilities.

At a time in which many organizations and businesses are choosing to exit Illinois or postpone investments in our State, I am heartened that MercyRockford has chosen to "put their money where their mouth is" and invest in Rockford and Illinois, without leaving a void (abandoned buildings/ health care desert) on our west side.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Kimberly Rosenberger

Kimberly Rosenberger

Northwestern Mutual is the marketing name for The Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, Milwaukee, WI (NM), and its subsidiaries and affiliates. Melissa Beth Thacker is an Insurance Agent of NM (life insurance, annuities and disability income insurance) and Northwestern Long Term Care Insurance Company, Milwaukee, WI, a subsidiary of NM (long-term care insurance), and a Registered Representative and Investment Adviser Representative of Northwestern Mutual Investment Services, LLC, a wholly-owned company of NM, broker-dealer, registered investment adviser and member FINRA and SIPC. NM is not a broker-dealer or registered investment adviser. There may be instances when this agent represents insurance companies in addition to NM or its affiliates.

CNC MACHINING
RUSCO
MFG. INC.
1304 Anvil Road
Machesney Park, IL 61115
815-654-3930

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

This letter is submitted in support of MercyRockford Health System's three applications.

Rusco Manufacturing, Inc. is a family owned and operated business, which was founded in 1977 by me, Russell Winters, Jr. Located in Machesney Park, we offer a wide range of machining services with our 100-plus pieces of CNC equipment housed in our 74,000 sq ft facility.

As a family-run local business and employer of 47 community members, I am strongly supportive of MercyRockford's applications that have been filed with your agency. The necessary development of the Rockton Avenue campus and the Riverside campus will strengthen access to care for our community and the region.

Along with other employers in the greater Rockford community, I am strongly supportive of projects that will trigger economic growth and create additional investment in our community. I am delighted to know that, as part of the merger of Mercy Health System and Rockford Health System, the new merged entity will be based in Illinois and has chosen to invest in significant improvement to the Rockton Avenue Campus and to develop needed services at the Rockford Memorial Hospital's Riverside Campus. These initiatives will result in additional job growth in our community and significant ancillary economic benefits. Moreover, I anticipate that these projects will help to stop the outmigration of patients to Wisconsin for services. Those services, when provided in Illinois, will help strengthen the economic climate in our community.

Not only will MercyRockford's plans create needed, state-of-the-art facilities on the E. Riverside Blvd. campus, but the regional economic vitality of that campus, including attracting patients from Wisconsin, will enable MercyRockford to make continued investments in its current campus on N. Rockton Ave.

At a time in which many organizations and businesses are choosing to exit Illinois or postpone investments in our State, I am heartened that MercyRockford has chosen to "put their money where their mouth is" and invest in Rockford and Illinois.

It is a great responsibility to run a business, not only do I look out for the best interest of my family but also the families of those I employ and the community in which we all live. It is my dream for Rusco Manufacturing be passed down to future generations, and remain in this community for many years – but this can only be accomplished by investments into our area, which I am delighted to see MercyRockford planning to do with the Two hospitals, One campus proposal.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Russell Winters

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF ROCKFORD

October 24, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

This letter is submitted in support of MercyRockford Health System's three applications.

My name is Chip Stoner and I am the President and CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of Rockford. The Boys & Girls Club of Rockford is the area's largest organization serving local youth. Our Club now serves over 6,500 youths ages 6-18 at four local Units with extended learning opportunities and recreational programs throughout Winnebago County. Our focus is a multifaceted approach to life-long learning. Our programs are diversified and provide our members with opportunities for growth through academic success, good character and leadership, and healthy lifestyles.

Rockford Health System and the Boys & Girls Club share a similar passion for serving children throughout our community, particularly children struggling with the disadvantages of growing up in poverty. Boys and Girls Clubs kids have particularly benefited from access to care on the Rockford Health System Ronald McDonald Care Mobile, a free medical and dental clinic on wheels that brings care for kids directly to neighborhoods and schools.

The Boys & Girls Club of Rockford supports the MercyRockford plans to maintain an active medical campus on N. Rockton Ave., continuing service to families who rely on their doctors and healthcare services in that neighborhood. Additionally, we support the plans to create a state-of-the-art women's and children's hospital, serving the critical care needs of children in our community and throughout the region.

Thank you for your consideration of our support.

Clifford "Chip" Stoner
President/CEO
Boys & Girls Club of Rockford

United Way
United Way of Rock River Valley

Easter Seals
Metropolitan Chicago

1939 West 13th Street
Suite 300
Chicago, IL 60608-1226
312.491.4110 Phone
312.733.0273 Fax
www.eastersealschicago.org

October 24, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

This letter is submitted in support of MercyRockford Health System's three applications.

Easter Seals Metropolitan Chicago serves 30,000 clients with disabilities and special needs annually in the Greater Chicago area and in the Rockford Region. Easter Seal maximizes independence and creates opportunities for people with disabilities and other special needs to live, learn, work and play in their communities by providing a lifespan of premier services. Children and adults with disabilities and special needs find highest-quality services designed to meet their individual needs when they come to Easter Seals. Teams of therapists, teachers and other health professionals help each person overcome obstacles to independence and reach his or her personal goals. Easter Seals also includes families as active members of any therapy program, and offers the support families need.

We support the MercyRockford plans to create one hospital on two campuses, expanding their commitment to adults and children with disabilities from throughout the region.

We urge your approval of the MercyRockford applications.

Sincerely,

F. Timothy Muri
President and CEO
Easter Seals Metropolitan Chicago

RASMUSSEN
COLLEGE EST 1900

October 23, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

This letter is submitted in support of MercyRockford Health System's three applications.

Rasmussen College is proud to support the expansion of MercyRockford Health Systems through their new One Hospital, Two Campuses initiative.
We are pleased to see the plan maintains many services in the current west side facility while expanding access to health care in the region through a new, state-of-the-art facility that will not only enhance access to specialized services in a convenient location but will increase healthcare options for people across the entire region.
We believe this expansion will create much-needed jobs today and lead to even more opportunities for the local healthcare industry in the years to come. We welcome the positive impact this project will have on our local economy here in Rockford as well as in surrounding communities.
A healthy economy needs jobs, and a healthy city needs quality healthcare. We think Mercy's expansion provides both, and we look forward to watching Rockford grow as a destination for all of our area's great healthcare providers and other businesses from around the Midwest.

Trenda Boyum-Breen

Dr. Trenda Boyum-Breen
President, Rasmussen College

Craig Steege
Campus Director, Rasmussen College – Rockford Campus

ROCKFORD CAMPUS: 6000 E. State Street, 4th Floor | Rockford, IL 61108-2513

PHONE: 815-316-4800 **FAX:** 815-316-4801 **TOLL FREE:** 877-555-5825 **WEB:** www.rasmussen.edu

ALPHA
controls&services
LLC™

www.alphaACS.com
T. 866-ALPHA-01
F. 815-227-4004

4104 Charles Street
Rockford, IL 61108

2865 Via Verde
Springfield, IL 62703

411 Devonshire Drive
Champaign, IL 61820

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System
Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

This letter is submitted in support of MercyRockford Health System's subject applications.

As a lifelong member of the greater Rockford area, a local graduate of Rock Valley College, a local business owner and family man, I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the three applications of expansion in the Rockford area by MercyRockford Health System. I am pleased to state that my extended family has had many healthcare interactions with the MercyRockford Health System. From individual care, to the birth of our children, to the extensive care of our Niece/God Child who struggled with pediatric cancer, we have always found the care and services delivered by the MRHS organization to be of the highest quality and integrity.

As a community volunteer, philanthropist and advocate for the entire Rockford area, I am a stanch supporter of the continued viability of the MercyRockford Health System facilities on Rockton Avenue to support the Westside and Northwest side inhabitants of Rockford. At the same time I believe that it is critical that the greater Rockford Area continue to develop our services for the eastern suburbs of the greater Rockford Area. With the primary interstate services for the Rockford area being on the East Side of the city and community, having a critical services Healthcare facility on Riverside Boulevard would not only benefit the residents of Rockford, but would create a resource for service for the many residents of Illinois and Wisconsin that live, north, east and south of the Rockford area. The collaboration of healthcare from the West to the East sides of Rockford, by MercyRockford Health System, would be a benefit to every resident of the Rockford area and beyond.

My family and I are proud, lifelong members of the Rockford area and we are excited to see the investment and re-investment into our community for which we call home. We hope that these important healthcare and economic projects will have the opportunity to move forward for MercyRockford Health System and all of us in the great Rockford area.

Very truly yours,

Brent S. Bernardi

Brent S. Bernardi

rkdixon
COPIERS • PRINTERS • IT SERVICES

A Xerox Company

October 21, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System—Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

This letter is submitted in support of MercyRockford Health System's three applications.

My name is Jody Schumacher and in the 1990's I was a small business owner who employed 35 employees. In 1994 I sold my business because of my concern for the business environment in the Rockford Region. My company was going to be losing approximately 20% of its business not because it was not being managed well or taking care of its customers. Five of the top Rockford Region employers, all customers of my company, in the Rockford Region sold to larger companies and the executive level decision were now going to be made outside of Rockford. Every time the Rockford Region loses another large employer in the area the economic and educational standards are lowered. It can take decades to bring those standards back to an even benchmark.

I strongly support all three MercyRockford filed applications. Economically in the short-term the construction of the campus would boost the local economy. Long-term the educational level required for the positions available at the health system would increase the overall education level of the area. Every time we have the opportunity to raise the education level in area the more support we are giving to all the businesses in the region. The health system would not only be bringing additional careers to the campus but to all the local businesses that would be supporting it. As we continue to raise the education and income level of the area population it reduces the burden on the government thus increasing the opportunity to support the local non-profits.

At a time when many businesses and organizations are looking to exit Illinois or postpone investing in the area I am elated that MercyRockford has chosen to commit and invest in the Rockford Region.

Thank you,

Jody Schumacher

Jody Schumacher
Rockford Branch Manager

1560 S. Alpine Road • Rockford, IL 61108 • 815.397.2700 • www.rkdixon.com

STENSTROM

Excavation and Blacktop Group

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for Mercy Rockford Health System – Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

The following letter is submitted in support of Mercy Rockford Health System's three applications.

My name is Doug Curry, President of Stenstrom Excavation & Blacktop Group, Rockford, Illinois, and a Rockford resident.

I strongly support Mercy Rockford's applications that have been submitted for approval by your agency. The necessary reinvestment in the Rockton Avenue campus and the addition of Riverside campus will provide greater access to health care services for the entire Rockford region.

Along with other businesses in the Rockford region, I strongly endorse projects that will facilitate economic growth and create additional long term investment in our community. I was also excited to know that, as part of the merger of Mercy Health System and Rockford Health System, the new merged entity will be based in Illinois. A key component to the Mercy Rockford Health System plan is their planned reinvestment in the Rockton Avenue Campus, while adding additional state of the art services at the new Mercy Rockford Riverside Campus.

In particular, residents of the west side of Rockford will, according to the Mercy Rockford plan, continue to be able to access necessary health care services. Their proposed plan, while proposing new services at the Riverside Boulevard site, demonstrates Mercy Rockford's continued commitment to continuing necessary services at the Rockton Avenue location on the west side.

I am pleased that this plan proposes the introduction of modern facilities designed to accommodate state-of-the-art technologies. I know that keeping pace with medical technological advances is essential to stop out-migration for health care services. Rockford Memorial's neonatal, high-risk maternity, and pediatric intensive care services are essential – not only to Rockford – but to all of northwestern Illinois. They are the only health system in the region to provide this care. I have had firsthand experience with Rockford Memorials pediatric department. Our son was born at Rockford Memorial and admitted twice as a toddler with pneumonia. I was grateful to have state of the art care right in our back yard.

General Contractor – Design/Build Group	Real Estate Development Group	Excavation and Blacktop Group	Sand and Gravel Group	Petroleum Services Group
2420 20th Street P.O. Box 5866 Rockford, IL 61125 815.398.2420 Fax: 815.398.0041	2420 20th Street P.O. Box 5866 Rockford, IL 61125 815.398.2420 Fax: 815.398.0041	2422 Center Street P.O. Box 5946 Rockford, IL 61125 815.398.3478 Fax: 815.229.0978	2422 Center Street P.O. Box 5946 Rockford, IL 61125 815.398.3478 Fax: 815.229.0978	2422 Center Street P.O. Box 5946 Rockford, IL 61125 815.398.6250 Fax: 815.398.0019

www.rstenstrom.com

STENSTROM

Excavation and Blacktop Group

Continued

Many businesses are currently leaving Illinois or postponing investments within our State. I am glad Mercy Rockford has chosen to invest and reinvest in Rockford and Illinois.

In conclusion, I believe the investment is one of the largest projects in the Rockford regions history. The plan confirms the continued access to health care on the west side of Rockford and, at the same time, creates updated facilities to serve the entire region in a conveniently accessible location. Our community and our region deserve to have excellent health care facilities and would greatly benefit from this huge economic boost.

Respectfully,

Douglas B. Curry, P.E.
President

General Contractor – Design/Build Group	Real Estate Development Group	Excavation and Blacktop Group	Sand and Gravel Group	Petroleum Services Group
2420 20th Street P.O. Box 5866 Rockford, IL 61125 815.398.2420 Fax: 815.398.0041	2420 20th Street P.O. Box 5866 Rockford, IL 61125 815.398.2420 Fax: 815.398.0041	2422 Center Street P.O. Box 5946 Rockford, IL 61125 815.398.3478 Fax: 815.229.0978	2422 Center Street P.O. Box 5946 Rockford, IL 61125 815.398.3478 Fax: 815.229.0978	2422 Center Street P.O. Box 5946 Rockford, IL 61125 815.398.6250 Fax: 815.398.0019

www.rstenstrom.com

GORMAN & COMPANY, INC.
200 N. Main Street • Oregon, WI 53575
P: 608 835 3900
F: 608 835 3922
www.GormanUSA.com
REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT
MILWAUKEE MIAMI PHOENIX CHICAGO DENVER

October 22, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

This letter is submitted in support of MercyRockford Health System's three applications.

At Gorman & Company, we work to revitalize communities through innovative housing partnerships. As a trusted partner and respected industry leader since 1984, we specialize in downtown revitalization, the preservation of affordable housing, workforce housing, and the adaptive reuse of significant historic buildings. Gorman & Company works closely with local governments and community groups to help communities meet their development, planning, economic and social goals. Our company has invested millions of dollars to revitalize the community of Rockford through the rehabilitation of the downtown sector and redevelopment of housing for Rockford's lowest income residents throughout the city.

I am strongly supportive of MercyRockford's applications that have been filed with your agency. The necessary development of the Rockton Avenue campus and the Riverside campus will strengthen access to care for our community and the region.

This $400 million investment is the biggest project in the Rockford area's history. It respects the legacy of care on the west side of Rockford at the same time it provides for updated facilities to serve Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin in a conveniently accessible location off I-90. Our community and our region deserve to have excellent healthcare facilities and could greatly benefit from this huge economic boost.

Very truly yours,

Andre Blakley
Illinois Market President

Northwestern Mutual®

M. Beth Thacker
Financial Advisor

7025 Rote Rd
Rockford, IL 61107
815 398 6636 office
815 399 2245 fax
815 631 8003 cell
mbeth.thacker@nmfn.com
www.nmfn.com/mbeththacker

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

This letter is submitted in support of MercyRockford Health System's three applications.

My name is Beth Thacker, a financial advisor with Northwestern Mutual in Rockford, IL.

I am pleased that this plan proposes the introduction of modern facilities designed to accommodate state-of-the-art technologies. I know that keeping pace with medical technological advances is essential to stop out-migration for healthcare services.

In particular, the residents of the west side of Rockford will, according to the MercyRockford plan, continue to be able to access necessary services. Thus, avoiding a "health care desert." Without the west side location, I am concerned about access to emergency services, convenient care services, and inpatient services. This plan, while proposing new services at the Riverside Boulevard site, demonstrates MercyRockford's continued commitment to the continuing these necessary services on the west side. MercyRockford's significant commitment to continued services in the current location is unlike other Illinois hospitals that have built new campuses, leaving almost nothing in their old locations. Worse yet leaving large abandoned facilities.

At a time in which many organizations and businesses are choosing to exit Illinois or postpone investments in our State, I am heartened that MercyRockford has chosen to "put their money where their mouth is" and invest in Rockford and Illinois, without leaving a void (abandoned buildings/ health care desert) on our west side.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

M Beth Thacker

M. Beth Thacker

Northwestern Mutual is the marketing name for The Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, Milwaukee, WI (NM), and its subsidiaries and affiliates. Melissa Beth Thacker is an Insurance Agent of NM (life insurance, annuities and disability income insurance) and Northwestern Long Term Care Insurance Company, Milwaukee, WI, a subsidiary of NM (long-term care insurance), and a Registered Representative and Investment Adviser Representative of Northwestern Mutual Investment Services, LLC, a wholly-owned company of NM, broker-dealer, registered investment adviser and member FINRA and SIPC. NM is not a broker-dealer or registered investment adviser. There may be instances when this agent represents insurance companies in addition to NM or its affiliates.

JJ GUN DRILLING
PRECISION DRILLING & MACHINING
1011 River Lane
Loves Park, IL 61111
815-316-0736

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

This letter is submitted in support of MercyRockford Health System's three applications.

Since 2008, we have been an ideal partner for machine shops that are looking to outsource or increase value add services utilizing precision drilling capabilities for their demand.

As a family-run local business and employer of 8 community members, I am strongly supportive of MercyRockford's applications that have been filed with your agency. The necessary development of the Rockton Avenue campus and the Riverside campus will strengthen access to care for our community and the region.

Along with other employers in the greater Rockford community, I am strongly supportive of projects that will trigger economic growth and create additional investment in our community. I am delighted to know that, as part of the merger of Mercy Health System and Rockford Health System, the new merged entity will be based in Illinois and has chosen to invest in significant improvement to the Rockton Avenue Campus and to develop needed services at the Rockford Memorial Hospital's Riverside Campus. These initiatives will result in additional job growth in our community and significant ancillary economic benefits. Moreover, I anticipate that these projects will help to stop the outmigration of patients to Wisconsin for services. Those services, when provided in Illinois, will help strengthen the economic climate in our community.

Not only will MercyRockford's plans create needed, state-of-the-art facilities on the E. Riverside Blvd. campus, but the regional economic vitality of that campus, including attracting patients from Wisconsin, will enable MercyRockford to make continued investments in its current campus on N. Rockton Ave.

At a time in which many organizations and businesses are choosing to exit Illinois or postpone investments in our State, I am heartened that MercyRockford has chosen to "put their money where their mouth is" and invest in Rockford and Illinois.

It is a great responsibility to run a business, not only do I look out for the best interest of my family but also the families of those I employ and the community in which we all live. It is my dream for J & J Gundrilling be passed down to future generations, and remain in this community for many years – but this can only be accomplished by investments into our area, which I am delighted to see MercyRockford planning to do with the Two hospitals, One campus proposal.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Jason Winters