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Joanna Niemiec, MD  
Bindu Pavithran, MD  
Charlene Murdakes, MD

RECEIVED

OCT 29 2015

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Ms. Courtney Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson  
Springfield, IL 62761  
October 26, 2015

**Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System – Project Number: 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 James Stim, MD and I am a nephrologist practicing in the Rockford area for the past 17 years. I am a senior partner in Rockford Nephrology Associates who along with 10 other physician partners service the Nephrology and dialysis needs for the Northern Illinois region including Rockford's 3 hospitals, Freeport, Dixon/Sterling, Sycamore, Rochelle, Beloit, and Janesville. We are an independent physician group and are active staff members at all 3 of the Rockford hospitals.

I strongly support the MercyRockford's applications that have been filed with your agency for several reasons. As a regional healthcare provider and nephrologist, I am well aware of the fact that many patients in the region may not have access to state of the art technologies at their local hospitals and often need to come to Rockford for their more specialized medical and surgical care. The ability of MercyRockford to be able to provide this in a new facility conveniently located off of I 39 on Riverside will provide another option for those who have to come here from more rural areas to receive quality specialized care. In continuing to have a presence on the West side of Rockford by maintaining beds and services at the present facility, MercyRockford also can continue its commitment to quality care it has provided over the many years in its present location. I am pleased that there will be continued emergency care as well as convenient care and inpatient care at the present facilities on Rockton Avenue.

Another reason I am very supportive of MercyRockford's application is the prospects for expanding pediatric subspecialty care at the new proposed facility on Riverside. This location would make it is easier to bring patients and their families from a wider geographic range to for their pediatric healthcare needs. We are hopeful that this may include someday pediatric nephrology amongst the other pediatric subspecialties not presently represented in the Region.

*James Stim MD*

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I know from personal experience how much time and effort is made to drive into Chicago or Madison for these types of services and the inherent stress this causes to patients and their families during a difficult time in their lives

Finally I feel that the MercyRockford plans will result in a healthy infusion of economic growth and activity to the area providing benefits for all residents in the region and surrounding areas. This includes the infusion of capital into the present facilities as well as the new facility proposed on Riverside. This benefit not only involves job growth and the ancillary services needed for a new hospital facility but also as a resource for health and wellness education to the community.

In summary I am supporting MercyRockford Health System's CON applications which will provide greater access to healthcare for the Northern Illinois/South Wisconsin area, greatly expand pediatric subspecialty care, and provide economic stimulus to the region as a byproduct of its plans for two campuses.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'James Stim MD'.

James Stim, MD  
Rockford Nephrology Associates