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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Ms. Kathryn Olson, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Ms. Olson:

I am happy to write this letter in support for Dr. Zahoor Makhdoom and the Southern Illinois Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Center, LLC, in their efforts to establish a licensed endoscopy center to be located in Carbondale, Illinois.

I have known Dr. Makhdoom both in a doctor-patient relationship, and as chairperson of the Carbondale Interfaith dialogues for the past fifteen years. He and his wife have consistently been supporters and participants in interfaith work and dialogues in the Carbondale area. I have worked closely with the Mosque community in our interfaith work during these years, and both have been there to help with ideas and financial contributions.

I know firsthand of the need for lower cost quality screening colonoscopy and other endoscopy services in our area. We have a middle-aged couple who clean our house every week, and they have very limited financial resources. They were grateful to be able to receive colonoscopies from Dr. Makhdoom at a cost consistent with their resources. As the director of the Adult Out-Patient Psychiatric Program in Franklin and Williamson Counties for many years, I was aware that many people who are suffering financially tend to put off such important procedures often to the detriment of their lives.

Southern Illinois is one of the most economically challenged sections of our country, as is Jackson County and Carbondale where Dr. Makhdoom has his primary office. Many medical resources are needed to minister to the needs of those people and families less fortunate, and so I am very much in support of this project.

Sincerely, Kenneth C. Starbuck

