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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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15-061

August 9, 2016

Ms Kathryn J Olson, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Service Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Dear Ms Olson:

It is with the greatest pleasure that I write this letter of support for Zahoor Makhdoom, MD and the Southern Illinois Endoscopy Center, LLC in their effort to establish a licensed endoscopy center in Carbondale, Illinois.

I first became acquainted with Dr. Makhdoom as a resident physician where I did a GI rotation with him. I have always referred my patients to him since I opened my practice over ten years ago. I have consistently seen the compassionate care that he provides my patients. He not only exhibits this care to my patients but extends his compassion to the people of southern Illinois.

I know that this endoscopy center has been a long standing dream of his. He has seen the insurance environment change over the years and wanted to have an alternative solution. Southern Illinois is a depressed economy and we frequently see patients without insurance or to be able to afford insurance have extremely high deductibles. The cost of outpatient endoscopy in the hospital setting keeps increasing and thereby places an undue burden on our patients. Due to this, my patients are not seeking the care that they need because of the increased financial burden.

Dr. Makhdoom is offering these patients access to services that would otherwise be unavailable to them. The high cost of hospital based endoscopy is not an option for these patients. My patients and I appreciate Dr. Makhdoom's commitment to bring affordable outpatient endoscopy care to the people of southern Illinois.

If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to call me at (618) 687-2319.

Sincerely,



Evan Belfer, MD