District Office:
88 Broadway, Suite 1
Mattoon, IL 61938
217/235-6033
217/235-6052 (Fax)
888/235-6033 (Toll Free)
www.dalerighter.com

General Assembly
State of Illinois

Dale A. Righter

State Senator · 55th District

Springfield Office:
105A State House
Springfield, IL 62706
217/782-6674
217/782-0116 (Fax)
drighter@consolidated.net

RECEIVED
JUN 28 2016
HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

June 15, 2016

Ms. Courtney Avery:

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing to express my support for an application for a certificate of need designated under Project 16-019.

Sarah Bush Lincoln Health System is an integral part of a 10-county area both in terms of economic impact and health impact. It is clear why Sarah Bush Lincoln has run out of bed space and why it is requesting a second cardiac catheterization lab: people in East Central Illinois trust Sarah Bush Lincoln with their lives.

Since the beginning, the hospital's mission has been to care for all people regardless of their respective ability to pay. While other hospitals have limited care by payer source in order to generate more income, Sarah Bush Lincoln has remained committed to its mission. This is particularly impressive and important in a community with an average household income of less than $44,000.

The organization has been highly successful in recruiting skilled medical staff members and placing them in communities in and around Coles County to ensure that residents have access to care. Consequently, the inpatient volume has grown by 14.5 percent in the last few years, while those needing cardiac care has grown by 400 percent.

Over the years, Sarah Bush Lincoln has been honored with multiple quality and performance awards, including the Illinois Performance Excellence "Gold" award, an A+ bond rating by Standard and Poor's, and a HealthStream "employee engagement" award.

I encourage the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve Sarah Bush Lincoln's certificate of need application so it can continue to provide exceptional care for all.

Sincerely,

Dale Righter
State Senator 55th District