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HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

January 9, 2012  
Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761  
RE: Letter of Support – Proposed Replacement St. Joseph's Hospital – Project #11-105 & #11-106

Dear Ms. Avery:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with this letter as a statement of my support regarding St. Joseph's Hospital's Certificate of Need application filed with your agency regarding plans to build a new replacement hospital facility in Highland, Illinois.

Since 1878, St. Joseph's Hospital has served the Highland area by continuing their commitment to care for the sick, poor and needy as a healing ministry of Jesus Christ established by the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis. Although the hospital has made improvements to its current 64 year old building as it stands today, the current facility lacks the ability to meet future healthcare reform and service requirements. Additionally, the current four-acre site in Highland is land locked and unable to accommodate needed expansion and growth as the health care needs of local residents will continue to change. The site for the replacement hospital will be housed on 60 plus acres, which will allow the new St. Joseph's Hospital to expand and grow, which is a key benefit for the future of Highland residents. Below I have listed six core principles that are designed to provide a better experience:

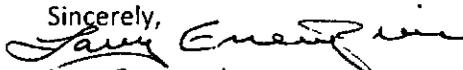
- \*Convenience to the patients, including accessible and ample parking
- \*Privacy
- \*An Emergency Department with state of the art technology and easy access
- \*Creating a healing environment for patients and their families
- \*The newest high-tech medical equipment and advanced technology throughout the hospital
- \*Continued family services with an increased emphasis on women and children services

In Addition to the six core principles the accessibility of the local population to an updated medical facility makes the healthcare environment a more comforting experience. As another excellent way to better serve the citizens of the Highland community, the proposed new St. Joseph's Hospital will also feature an extended list of out-patient services that it has not previously been able to offer. This will greatly benefit the citizens of Highland and surrounding areas. Additional, this leads to the health and well-being of the citizens of Highland and the economic stability of the City of Highland. Most of all, this project will positively affect the future generations of local residents in an even more profound way than the hospital has been able to in the first 133 years of existence.

As a member of the Friends of St. Joseph's Hospital Board of Directors, and also my wife, who is a co-chair of the Recognition Task Force, we have had a lengthy relationship with the hospital, its past and present leadership, and we are members of the community who support the hospital's mission

I respectfully ask the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to support Project #11-105 and #11-106.

Sincerely,

  
Larry Essenpreis

Larry Essenpreis  
1741 Sebastopol Road  
Highland, IL 62249