JACK
FRANKS
McHenry County Board Chairman

17-001
17-002

February 20, 2017

RECEIVED
FEB 24 2017
HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Ms. Kathryn J. Olson
Chairman
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Chairman Olson and Members of the Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board:

I am writing in my individual capacity as Chairman of the McHenry County Board to express support of the dual Certificate of Need requests filed by Mercyhealth to build a multi-specialty clinic and adjacent 13-bed micro-hospital in Crystal Lake, Illinois.

This project is good for our community and good for our economy. The $105 million investment Mercyhealth is proposing will create hundreds of well-paying jobs (at least 500 construction and 150 permanent health care jobs) and will have a significant positive effect on our region for decades to come. Research shows that health care operations are serious economic drivers and that for every new health care job created in a community, nearly another full-time position is created to support that position, virtually doubling the impact.

Tackling inefficiencies and wasteful spending has long been a passion of mine. This project will reduce the cost of providing health care services to a larger portion of our community members by eliminating inefficiencies. At present, Mercyhealth patients must visit up to five facilities to secure care, plus travel more for outpatient procedures and hospital care. This project will eliminate that burden. This also means that disadvantaged patients who find it difficult to travel will experience much-increased access to needed services. The project will also create a local emergency department—something Crystal Lake has never before enjoyed. We see this build as a win for all involved.

Additionally, we believe that adding more options to the marketplace is a smart long term investment that will naturally increase the quality of care and reduce costs. McHenry County must focus on growth *and* diversification to strengthen our county's economic base and this project will help reach those goals.

I respectfully request that the Illinois Health Facilities & Services Board consider favorably both of Mercyhealth's Certificate of Need proposals and allow this important project to move forward.

Sincerely,

Jack Franks
Chairman
McHenry County Board

P.O. Box 274, Woodstock, IL 60098 • FranksForMcHenry.com • 815-338-6363

*Paid for by Supporters of Jack D. Franks* 310