The Center for Gastrointestinal Health
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AUG 28 2019
HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

August 26, 2019

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Physicians' Surgical Center (Proj. No. 19-025)

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing on behalf of my practice, The Center for Gastrointestinal Health, in support of the relocation of Physicians' Surgical Center from the former campus of HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville to O'Fallon, Illinois.

Physicians Surgical Center has operated in the Belleville community for close to fifty years. At the time it commenced operations, its proximity to HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital was advantageous as it provided a high quality, low cost alternative to outpatient hospital surgery. With the relocation of HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital and subsequent demolition of the hospital and associated buildings, the surgery center's location has created challenges to both patients and staff and necessitated the relocation of the surgery center.

Given the age of the existing surgery center, there are several physical plant issues that need to be addressed. The surgery center is located on the second floor, and the elevators servicing the surgery center are small and difficult to transport patients, visitors and staff. The elevator size could be particularly problematic during a medical emergency when patients need to be transported to the building exit on the first floor. The existing surgery center also has limited space and cannot expand or modernize. Further, the physical plant issues could present challenges to complying with federal, state and accreditation requirements. The relocated surgery center will provide high quality surgical care in a state of the art facility.

The relocation of Physicians Surgical Center will improve access to surgical procedures to our patients, many of whom are low income and Medicaid beneficiaries and who would otherwise have to pay three to four times more to have the same procedures performed at a local hospital. This will provide a low cost alternative to both patients and payors.

I respectfully request the Health Facilities and Services Review Board approve the application for the relocation of Physicians' Surgical Centre.

Sincerely,

Shakeel Ahmed, M.D.

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