No. E-019-17

ROCKFORD MINISTERS' FELLOWSHIP

ELDER JOSEPH DIXON, PRESIDENT
DR. PETER F. WILLIAMS, SECRETARY REV. ROBERT HEARNS, TREASURER REV. MAURICE WEST, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT,
REV. KEITH JORDAN, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

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MAY 05 2017
HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

May 4, 2017

Ms. Kathryn J. Olson, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Requested Approval for SwedishAmerican Hospital's CON Application to Modernize Its Existing Facility and Construct a New Women and Children's Tower, and Its Exemption Application to Add a Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit

Dear Chairwoman Olson:

On behalf of the Rockford Ministers' Fellowship ("RMF"), an organization comprised of Rockford-area clergy who primarily serve its African-American community, I write to express enthusiastic support for the above-referenced project. Your approval of the SwedishAmerican hospital CON and COE applications will help meet the healthcare needs of our congregants. Your favorable action will help more equitably distribute health care resources in our region, and bring proximate access to the highest level of care to the west and south side areas of Rockford. We are all God's children, with equal entitlement to healthcare access and the highest level of quality care.

As the applications reflect, the proposed $130 million modernization and expansion will include private inpatient rooms, as well as a modernized Emergency Department, operating rooms, and other needed services – in the federally designated "health professional shortage area" of Rockford. The need is clear.

Most critically, SwedishAmerican plans to establish a state-of-the-art Women's and Children's Center that will include a Neo-natal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Once approved, the NICU would allow SwedishAmerican to apply for designation as a Level III Nursery and treat more complex neo-natal patients. SwedishAmerican is already the largest birthing center in Rockford, and is the only area hospital to have received

the Healthgrades' Labor and Delivery Excellence Award. The addition of a Level III Nursery at SwedishAmerican, together with the new Women's and Children's Center, will assure access to the highest quality of care for all Rockford area families. The west and south side areas of Rockford are equally deserving of this health care resource as more affluent and less diverse neighborhoods of our city – again, we are all God's children.

For the sake of equitable access to health care and basic fairness, and on behalf of our RMF pastoral community and the African-American populations we collectively serve, I respectfully urge your prompt approval of these CON and COE applications from SwedishAmerican Hospital. I sincerely believe your approval is necessary to securing a strong safety net for our most vulnerable citizens.

Sincerely,

Pastor Joseph Dixon
President
Rockford Ministers Fellowship

No E-019-17

ROCKFORD-AREA CLERGY

UNITED IN SUPPORT OF SWEDISHAMERICAN HOSPITAL PROJECT

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MAY 05 2017

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

April 27, 2017

Ms. Kathryn J. Olson, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Requested Approval for SwedishAmerican Hospital's CON Application to Modernize Its Existing Facility and Construct a New Women and Children's Tower, and Its Exemption Application to Add a Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit

Dear Chairwoman Olson:

Both individually and on behalf of our respective congregations, the undersigned members of the Rockford-area clergy urge your approval of these SwedishAmerican hospital CON and COE applications. Your favorable action will help more equitably distribute proximate health care resources in our region, and bring proximate access to the highest level of care to the west and south side areas of Rockford. We are all God's children, and no one among us is less entitled to proximate health care access and the highest level of quality care.

The proposed $130 million modernization and expansion will include private inpatient rooms, as well as a modernized Emergency Department, operating rooms, and other needed services - all in the federally designated "health professional shortage area" of Rockford. The need is self evident.

Most critically, SwedishAmerican plans to establish a state-of-the-art Women's and Children's Center that will include a Neo-natal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Once approved, the NICU would allow SwedishAmerican to apply for designation as a Level III Nursery and treat more complex neo-natal patients. SwedishAmerican is already the largest birthing center in Rockford, and is the only area hospital to have received the Healthgrades' Labor and Delivery Excellence Award. The addition of a Level III

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April 27, 2017

Nursery at SwedishAmerican, together with the new Women's and Children's Center, will assure access to the highest quality of care for all Rockford area families. The west and south side areas of Rockford are fully deserving of this proximate health care resource – again, we are all God's children.

For the sake of equitable access to proximate health care, and on behalf of the largely African-American populations that our churches collectively serve, the undersigned respectfully urge your prompt approval of these CON and COE applications from SwedishAmerican Hospital. Please demonstrate your commitment to a strong safety net for our most vulnerable citizens.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Joseph Dixon
Senior Pastor and Founder
All Nations Worship Center

Pastor Jim Roberts
Greater Rockford Ministry Assoc.

Kenneth R. Board
Pilgrim Baptist Church

Pastor Ronald Miller
Living Faith Tabernacle

Rev Anthony Lewis
Senior Pastor
Progressive M.B. Church

Bishop Leonard Jones
Bishop Leonard Jones
Christian Union Full Gospel Church

Pastor Larry G. Hunter
Second Christian Church

Alfred Johnson
Ass't Minister
New Fellowship MB Church

Kingdoom A-C-N
Pastor 815-914-0390

Pastor Robert Posley
Greater Harvest Church
Robert Posley

Rev. Johnnie Jones
Johnnie Jones
Providence Baptist Church

Rev. D. R. Hanson
United Faith Baptist Church

Joe Henson Sr.
First Trinity Baptist Church