

No. E-019-17



May 1, 2017

RECEIVED

MAY 09 2017

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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

Dear Chairwoman Olson,

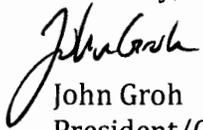
The Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau is in strong support of the SwedishAmerican expansion and modernization projects and urges approval of the CON and COE applications before your Board.

SwedishAmerican has been an important part of our community serving at its original downtown hospital campus for more than a century and this project will bring needed healthcare and economic benefits to our city and region.

I attended the news conference announcing this project and know it involves a \$130 million expansion and modernization that will include private in-patient rooms, upgraded emergency department, and renovated operating rooms and cath labs. Importantly, it includes 10 additional behavioral health beds and establishes a neo-natal intensive care unit. This will allow SwedishAmerican to apply for designation as a Level III nursery which increases access and care for its patients in this part of the community.

On behalf of RACVB, I respectfully urge the Board to approve these applications.

Sincerely,


John Groh
President/CEO

No. E-019-17



May 8, 2017

Ms. Kathryn Olson
Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RECEIVED

MAY 09 2017

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

RE: Support for SwedishAmerican Project

Dear Ms. Olson,

On behalf of the Rockford Area Economic Development Council (RAEDC), I am writing to support the SwedishAmerican Health System's modernization hospital project.

The primary role of the RAEDC is to improve the economic strength of the Rockford Region by helping employers retain and create quality primary jobs. The RAEDC works closely with many partners to serve as a one-stop resource for clients, to improve the competitiveness of the region and to engage the community in the daily work of economic development.

SwedishAmerican has a long rich tradition of not only providing exceptional regional health care, but also doing such in distressed areas of the city. Most recently SwedishAmerican announced the expansion of medical services in these areas, in addition to the over \$500 million already invested into the main campus. However, SwedishAmerican's investments have expanded beyond health care. Through its foundation, SwedishAmerican has invested in housing for its families and employees from the neighborhoods surrounding their main campus. SwedishAmerican is a true community partner.

The RAEDC supports the SwedishAmerican project in which they continue to invest in our region and create quality primary jobs. In addition to investment and job growth, the expansion will add a Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), private labor & delivery with mother/baby suites, a maternal-fetal medicine department and outpatient pediatric specialty clinic, the modernization of the existing hospital tower to include all private rooms, an emergency department expansion, an operating room and catheterization laboratory expansion, and an expansion of the mental health department.

Our organization has worked closely with all of the area's health care providers, and we appreciate the significant contributions made to our region by SwedishAmerican. On behalf of the Rockford Area Economic Development Council, I support the SwedishAmerican project as articulated above. We encourage your support as well, as a means to accelerate our region's economic development success.

Sincerely,


Nathan Bryant
President & CEO

