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MAR 28 2011

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Dale Galassie, Chair  
Illinois Health Facilities and Service Review Board  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
525 West Jefferson Street  
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Certificate of Exemption No. E-001-11, Surgery Center of Southern Illinois

Dear Chairman Galassie:

This letter is written in support of the pending Certificate of Exemption application which is referenced above. This transaction contemplates a change of ownership of the Surgery Center of Southern Illinois in Marion. It is my understanding that this request does not require substantive review by the Illinois Health Facilities and Service Review Board because the applicant meets the requirements for an exemption. Regardless, I would like to express my support for the project. I have worked at the Surgery Center for over 7 years. One of the current partners, that is trying to also purchase the Surgery Center, has made it clear that all current employees will not keep their jobs. The same partner has stated more than once that he would ruin the Surgery Center. This partner built his own Surgery Center, and since it has been open we have lost half of our staff from layoffs. Our surgery case numbers have dropped and our local patients have been made to travel out of the area for their surgeries. We provide excellent service to our patients and take great pride in serving the area. The facility is currently controlled and managed by a national surgery center chain, and this transaction would bring local control and management to the surgery center. The principal of the planned general partner of the venture is Mr. Ronald E Osman, who has been active in the community and several area businesses for decades. Most notably, Mr. Osman has experience as one of the individuals originally involved with the development of the Surgery Center of Southern Illinois. Mr. Osman understands the complexities of health care services. He will implement prudent management strategies while maintaining access to services for the community at large. Based upon my experience with Mr. Osman, I am confident that the Surgery Center of Southern Illinois will be well run and will be operated with the best interests of its patients and staff in mind.

I thank you for bringing this matter to the public for comment as your rules provide as I appreciate having the opportunity to support Cirurgia Centro as the new manager and general partner of this facility. This is a non-controversial transaction from a health planning perspective, and I'm sure the CON Board's approval will be forthcoming in the due course

Sincerely,

*Carolyn Storer*  
Carolyn Storer  
655 Deer Ridge Road  
Goreville, IL 62939