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MICHAEL J. ZALEWSKI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
23RD DISTRICT

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13-041 thru
13-044

July 24, 2013

RECEIVED

JUL 25 2013

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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

Dear Ms. Avery,

Thank you for the opportunity to write you and ask for your support of the merger between Tenet Healthcare and Vanguard Health Systems. The expedited consideration of the Certificate of Need application will allow the four Chicagoland hospitals, their patients and staff to seamlessly transition to new ownership. I ask that you and your colleagues consider the application for the merger at your September 24, 2013 meeting.

I had the pleasure of representing MacNeal Hospital for several years prior to 2010 and many of my constituents today are patients of the hospital. This facility has a century-long history of caring for the surrounding community through its hospital, ten primary care centers, a resource library and a school for at-risk children, among countless other programs. With more than 400 board-certified physicians, the hospital provides family-focused care to those who need it most.

Given MacNeal's strong history as a community partners and important health institution, I am pleased this merger would allow local leadership at the hospitals to remain in their roles. In addition, the merger would keep existing services at all four facilities intact for a minimum of two years. Tenet's interest in maintaining continuity of care speaks well to their focus on putting the health of the community first.

Thank you again for considering this very important matter. I am confident this merger will better position our hospitals to provide care to all members of our community.

Sincerely,
Rep. Michael J. Zalewski
23rd District of Illinois

Michael J. Zalewski