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August 27, 2013

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Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62767

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Re: Change of ownership application for Vanguard's MacNeal, Weiss, Westlake, and West Suburban hospitals to Tenet Healthcare

Dear Administrator Avery,

On behalf of the Health Care District of Palm Beach County, I am writing this letter to express my strong support for the change of ownership application for MacNeal, Weiss, Westlake, and West Suburban hospitals that will be heard by the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board on September 24. Our organization has worked closely with Tenet Healthcare and St. Mary's Medical Center in the past. They have always been strong advocates for the Health Care District.

In Palm Beach County, we partner with Tenet to provide Trauma services to all residents of Palm Beach County. This partnership has been in place for the past twenty-five years and thousands of lives have been saved. In addition, all the five Tenet hospitals in Palm Beach County participate in the District programs to provide health coverage for the poor.

I trained in Chicago and have worked at Weiss Hospital. I believe Tenet will be an excellent owner for this facility. It is located in the underserved Uptown area of Chicago and serves a population very similar to the population served by the Tenet facility, St. Mary's Hospital in West Palm Beach. Tenet, through its commitment to the underserved population of Palm Beach County has demonstrated a high level of community concern and involvement.

We look forward to continuing the strong relationship we have with St. Mary's Medical Center and Tenet.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Wiewora, MD, MPH, FACP, FACPM
Chief Executive Officer