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MICHAEL E. HASTINGS
ILLINOIS STATE SENATOR
19TH DISTRICT

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Chairman
Executive
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AUG 28 2019

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

August 27, 2019

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board
525 W. Jefferson St., Second Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Letter of Support for the Palos Behavioral Acute Care Hospital

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed MIRA Neuro-Behavioral Health Center for Children and Adolescents, a 30-bed facility dedicated to addressing acute mental health crises. Too many young people and their families are unable to treat the mental health challenges they face - MIRA can provide resources and hope for those who are suffering throughout the south suburbs.

This center has garnered more than 40 letters of support from local elected officials, health care professionals, and other community leaders who have witnessed the short-and long-term impacts untreated mental and behavioral disorders have on individuals, families, and the community.

This facility will address the crucial dearth of mental health services in my district, making care readily accessible to families in the region by providing specialized mental care that no other hospital or outpatient facility currently provides in the south suburbs. I am in full support of this and I encourage you to consider the benefits such a facility will bring to the broader community, as well, and hope that you will support our efforts to bring these much-needed services to the region. The State's participation in this project will help create a unique asset in the south suburbs. Please let me know if I can provide any additional services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Hastings".

Michael E. Hastings
Senator