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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

November 8, 2019

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, Illinois 62761

RE: Certificate of Need Application for CGH Medical Center

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of CGH Medical Center's Certificate of Need to enhance behavioral health services in Sterling, Illinois and Whiteside County by opening a behavioral health unit.

The mission of the Sauk Valley Chamber of Commerce is to enhance the economic climate and quality of life in the Sauk Valley area which includes Sterling, Illinois and surrounding communities in Whiteside County. We work to increase partnerships in the community to encourage businesses and organizations to work together for a stronger community.

In Whiteside County, the percent of adults with any mental illness is 18.6% for ages 18 and older and suicide is a leading cause of death for ages 15-44. Over 70% of individuals who report mental illness, do not seek care because of barriers related to transportation, access, and fear of being transferred over 50 miles away for care and treatment. This disparity negatively impacts members of our community being able to successfully function in our community.

The Sauk Valley Chamber of Commerce fully supports and requests your approval of the application to open a behavioral health unit at CGH Medical Center. Our community is in desperate need of access to these services closer to home.

Respectfully,



Kris Noble
Executive Director
211 Locust Street
Sterling, IL 61081



Sauk Valley Area
chamber of commerce

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