



Building a Community Without Domestic Violence

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July 1, 2019

Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am pleased to write on behalf of Between Friends in support of the planned affiliation between Swedish Covenant Health (SCH) and NorthShore University HealthSystem. Between Friends has partnered closely with Swedish Covenant Health via the Violence Prevention Program, to help break the cycle of domestic violence and build a community free of abuse.

Between Friends has collaborated with SCH on their Violence Prevention Program, the only program of its kind in Chicago, since its inception in 2015. We are honored to be a key partner in this program, which strengthens the hospital's capacity to identify survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking and sexual assault and connect them to health and support services to improve their physical, emotional and financial recovery.

SCH's partnership with NorthShore will strengthen and enhance its services for residents in the City of the Chicago. I believe that joining the NorthShore system will allow Swedish Covenant Health to adapt to the ever-changing health care environment while maintaining the patient-centered approach to care it has become known for. SCH provides significant jobs, critical services, community support and many opportunities within the north side of Chicago. By combining resources with NorthShore, SCH is taking a huge step to ensure that north side residents have the best, most cost-effective healthcare available, which translates into more stable, long-term healthcare and employment in the community.

This new collaboration will assure access to SCH's high quality health services for the diverse community they have served for more than 130 years. Between Friends looks forward to a continued partnership with SCH and their comprehensive Violence Prevention Program as they take this next step to become part of NorthShore University HealthSystem.

Sincerely,

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