



**HSHS
St. Joseph's
Hospital Highland**

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OCT 18 2019

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

October 15, 2019

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street
2nd Floor
Springfield IL, 62761

RE: In support of HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital Certificate of Exemption for the discontinuation of the 16-bed acute rehabilitation unit

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am the CEO of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Highland, IL. The purpose of my letter is to support the Certificate of Exemption application of HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital for the discontinuation of their 16-bed acute rehabilitation unit. St. Joseph's Hospital has the ability to take on medically appropriate inpatient rehabilitation patients through our swing bed program. Throughout these discussions, we have been working collaboratively with HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital to establish an efficient transfer process when swing bed appropriate patients are identified. In addition, the transition of patients from one HSHS hospital to another will provide greater continuity of care for the patients and keep their care close to home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Ludwig".

John Ludwig
President and CEO
HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital