



May 12, 2021

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
c/o Courtney Avery, Administrator
525 W Jefferson St, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Letter of Support for the Relocation of IP Rehab Services to the Greater Peoria Specialty Hospital
Project: 21-014, Greater Peoria Specialty Hospital, Peoria

I serve as President and CEO of Easterseals Central Illinois and am writing to express my support of plans by OSF HealthCare and Kindred Healthcare to partner in the provision of comprehensive physical rehabilitation services in our local community. As a provider of comprehensive pediatric rehabilitation and behavioral health services for children with disabilities for over 100 years, Easterseals is keenly aware of the important role these services play in helping individuals return to meaningful and productive lives. Please consider this letter as my endorsement of plans to relocate rehabilitation services currently provided at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center to the Greater Peoria Specialty Hospital.

Inpatient rehabilitation is a critical component in helping our friends, neighbors, family members and colleagues who have experienced a loss of function or disability due to stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, neurological disorders, orthopedic surgery and other conditions. Also, long-term acute care is extremely important in delivering care for people we know and love whose ailments may be considered difficult-to-treat or medically complex.

Bringing the rehabilitation services provided by OSF HealthCare into the same building as the long-term acute care at Greater Peoria Specialty Hospital will bring forward improvements and efficiencies in care delivery for both rehabilitation and long-term acute care patients. Importantly, new collaborative programs will provide increased access for local patients.

As a community healthcare partner, I stand with OSF HealthCare and Kindred Healthcare in supporting patients and families who are seeking highly specialized yet local access to care. I appreciate your consideration and request your support of this project and approval by the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steven R. Thompson", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Steven R. Thompson
President and CEO
Easterseals Central Illinois

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