

May 26, 2022

Chairwoman Debra Savage  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Letter of Support for Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Campus  
Project No. [22-017]

Dear Chairwoman Savage and Members:

I am writing this letter in support of the establishment of a child and adolescent behavioral health campus in the Peoria area.

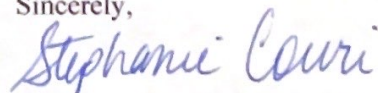
Our region needs and deserves access to enhanced child and adolescent behavioral health services. UnityPoint Health - Methodist Hospital is the only facility in our region that currently provides child and adolescent inpatient behavioral health services. These services are critical and extremely important for children experiencing an acute crisis. Unfortunately, due to constraints and limitations with UnityPoint Health - Methodist Hospital's existing facility, we, and other families in our region, have experienced difficulties accessing these vital, life-saving services.

My husband and I have been specialized foster parents for the past 8 years and during this time we have had several children experiencing mental health crises. More than half of the time, our kids have been sent to facilities between 1.5 – 3 hours away. This makes it very stressful and difficult to participate in their recovery, visit them & still manage the daily needs of the household and family.

The proposed child and adolescent behavioral health campus will increase access to greatly needed behavioral health services in our region. It will reduce current barriers to care and will be an asset to our community. In addition to providing quality inpatient behavioral health services, the campus will enhance access to effective outpatient programs and support for our children and families dealing with challenging behavioral and mental health conditions.

On behalf of my children and the children in our community, I ask that you approve the proposed child and adolescent behavioral health campus.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Couri