



ILLINOIS STATE SENATE
DAVID KOEHLER
STATE SENATOR • 46TH DISTRICT
ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

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:

As the IL State Senator for the 46th Senate District and a Peoria resident for over four decades, I am writing in strong support of Project No. 22-017. I represent District 46, which is often considered the home of the most diverse and gentrified properties, homeowners, and residents in all of Peoria County. Our community has many strengths, but it is also plagued by poverty and violence that adversely affects our youth's mental health and wellbeing.

I am acutely aware that investment in our community's public health – specifically, the health of our youth – could not be more important. No child should go without the care they need because of their zip code. Unfortunately, however, this is happening in our community. UnityPoint Health-Methodist Hospital, the only provider in our community of child and adolescent inpatient behavioral health services, simply does not have the ability within its current building and resources to meet the current and growing behavioral health needs of our youth. The proposed child and adolescent behavioral health campus will address these unmet needs and provide children and their families in our community with increased access to quality behavioral health services close to home.

I also applaud UnityPoint Health's decision to purchase and renovate the former Heddington Oaks nursing home into the proposed state-of-the-art behavioral health campus. While it was a difficult decision to close the nursing home and sell the property, I strongly believe this was the best outcome for the community as the facility will continue to be used for non-profit healthcare purposes that will greatly improve the health and wellbeing of our youth. I ask that you approve this worthy and important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Koehler", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

State Senator Dave Koehler
Assistant Majority Leader
46th Legislative District