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August 5, 2022

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

Dear Chairwoman Savage,

I write to you to request the approval of Advocate Aurora Health's Certificate of Need application to establish a new acute mental illness category of service at Advocate South Suburban Hospital (Advocate South Sub), which will serve patients across the South and Southwest suburbs of Chicago. The construction of this state-of-the-art behavioral health inpatient unit will not only create a great space for healing, but also allow Advocate Christ Medical Center (Advocate Christ) to press the release valve in their busy Emergency Department (ED) through the addition of much needed medical/surgical beds.

Advocate Christ—which sits in my State Senate district—is one of the busiest trauma centers in the Midwest, and one of the top two Medicaid providers in the state, by volume. It is the region's only Level 1 Trauma Center and tertiary care provider, including a host of specialty services, including oncology, neurosciences, cardiovascular, organ transplant, and women's and children's health.

The hospital has seen explosive growth in the last several years as it has delivered high-quality care to this community, and others around it. As a result, wait times in the ED can be extraordinary—with more than 30 patients per day waiting in ED for an inpatient bed. This proposed regional approach to delivering care will help reduce ED wait times, improve patient throughput, and make sure that both behavioral health inpatients, and other patients in the community will get timely access to superior care.

I humbly seek the support of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board on this project.

Thank you for your service to the State of Illinois.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bill Cunningham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bill" and last name "Cunningham" clearly distinguishable.

State Senator Bill Cunningham
Illinois State Senate, 18th District
Assistant Majority Leader & President Pro Tempore