



August 24, 2022

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

Re: New Behavioral Health Services Inpatient Unit at Advocate South Suburban Hospital

Dear Chairwoman Savage:

I am writing to express Aunt Martha's ardent support for the Certificate of Need application to establish an inpatient acute mental illness category of service at Advocate South Suburban Hospital. This project will have an overwhelmingly positive impact in the south suburbs.

What began 50 years ago as a small group of people in Park Forest who wanted to give youth a place to be safe, heard and understood has since grown into the third largest community health center in Illinois and the largest provider of behavioral health services among community health centers in the state.

Day after day, we work to build on our organization's proud legacy to create strong, healthy communities, where everyone has access to high-quality health and wellness care to foster better social and emotional health, but we can't do that without our partners in the community who share our organization's vision and values. Collaborating with Advocate and supporting this project is in the best interest of our organization and the communities we serve.

Advocate South Suburban Hospital's new behavioral health program, involving a capital investment of more than \$21 million, more integrated outpatient care and expanded pediatric mental health services, will allow so many more families in the south suburbs to receive the care they need and deserve.

This application deserves your approval. Please vote in support.

Sincerely,

Raul Garza
President and CEO
Aunt Martha's