

February 22, 2023

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

Re: Closure of Marklund Bloomingdale Philip Center, part of the 22-049 - Marklund-Wasmond Center Proposal

Dear Ms. Savage:

I am writing to you to express my concerns about the closure of Marklund's Philip Center located in Bloomingdale, IL. It is a 21-bed facility that serves medically-fragile, technology dependent children. My family are opposed to the closure of this facility for these reasons:

MY SON LIVES THERE:

My 13 year old son, Mark Roman Weber, has been a resident there since fall of 2015. He suffered an anoxic brain injury when he was very young and had to be fitted with a trach tube to breathe. He is wholly dependent on others for basic daily care, uses a wheelchair to be moved around, and feeds through a G-tube. We had the honor to care for him at home for almost 5 years until he got too heavy and I was diagnosed with breast cancer.

MOVING MY SON TO ELGIN DISRUPTS HIS ACCESS TO HIS CORE PROVIDERS & EDUCATION

Mark has a team of healthcare providers that he's been seeing since 2011; they are all based either in DuPage Co. or downtown Chicago. DuPage county is home to a level 3 PICU center at CDH which can handle these kids' respiratory needs. Kids like Mark often get sick with respiratory illnesses because they can't move on their own to clear their airway or make self-care decisions for themselves.

Their move to the Elgin facility which has more residents and therefore higher patient to nurse ratio, puts them at risk of not being attended to as quickly as they should in times of medical distress because of their non-verbalness and subtle cues. If they were to need hospitalization, there is not a level III PICU near them.

Additionally, the move goes against his IEP which stipulates that he attend school out in the community. If our child is moved to Elgin, all he will have is the 4 walls of Wasmond Center in Elgin.

MARKLUND BLOOMINGDALE RESIDENCES IS BETTER SUITED FOR MEDICALLY FRAGILE KIDS

When we moved to Glen Ellyn, one of the things that drew us to DuPage County was the amount of resources for children like Mark— a world class pediatric hospital at CDH (now part of NWMedicine), a rehabilitation center at Marianjoy, a respite facility like Almost Home Kids, and Marklund Bloomingdale, long-term children's home that served acute care kids like Mark. So when the time came for my husband and I to consider other options, we did not have to look any further. (See reference A)

The Bloomingdale setup affords our son and his fellow residents the specialized care and attention to details that they need and their social emotional learning needs are supported with the 360 degree nurse pod which promotes daily social gatherings with the caregivers and fellow residents. Their proximity to Cook county and many south/western suburbs makes it easier for me and many of the other families to visit our child on a regular basis.

We can visit Mark as often as possible in order to stay in tune with his medical baselines and continue bonding with him so that we can remain effective advocates for him. We are able to join many of his outpatient appointments and take over for the Marklund nurse if he ends up in the ER or PICU.

The closure of the Marklund-Bloomingdale residences will separate us from our son even more. It will also break up the wonderful partnership that we have formed with the line nurses and nurse leadership there who have remained a stable group over the years. This has provided my son and the other residents with consistent nursing care. Because of the smaller setting there, they have gotten to know each resident well and are able to make sound decisions which they often include us in on.

A FAILURE TO ENGAGE PARENTS AND BLINDSIDING THEM WITH THE DECISION TO CLOSE DOWN BLOOMINGDALE:

Marklund's leadership announced in 2016 that they **were** going to renovate the Bloomingdale facility and we were excited about this. But in November of 2022 and out of nowhere following radio silence from leadership, we were informed over email that our children would be moved to Elgin instead.

The leadership at Marklund has not answered our concerns and questions about what the plan is to enable our children to keep the same providers. No have they disseminated any information on the caliber of the healthcare providers in the Elgin area.

In addition, many of our kids go to school either in the community of Bloomingdale or school district of their parents' residence which is in DuPage Co. So their educational setting will also get disrupted.

What hurts even more is Marklund president/CEO took the time to solicit letters of support from local politicians such as Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, State Rep Anna Moeller, and healthcare executives who are located everywhere but within DuPage County. They all have one thing in common—not parents of the children at the Bloomingdale facility.

Please do not incentivize their mismanagement of priorities and the Marklund legacy by giving the green light to their misaligned proposal. Please help us keep the Bloomingdale facility open in DuPage County. Location is everything, it's as true in real estate as it is in healthcare. DuPage County deserves to keep its one of very few acute care facilities, Marklund Bloomingdale residences for children like Mark.

Sincerely,



Pauline Weber

773-592-6223

probiso_esh@hotmail.com

Glen Ellyn, IL resident since 2011

Parent to Mark Weber-resident at Marklund Philip Center Residences in Bloomingdale, IL



FRIENDS OF MARKLUND PHILIP CENTER RESIDENCES in BLOOMINGDALE, IL

Please keep this facility open so that:

Families of the children can remain close by for emergencies and family time.

DuPage County can continue to have an acute care facility for kids with complex needs.

Families from DuPage and surrounding cities have access to this level of care.

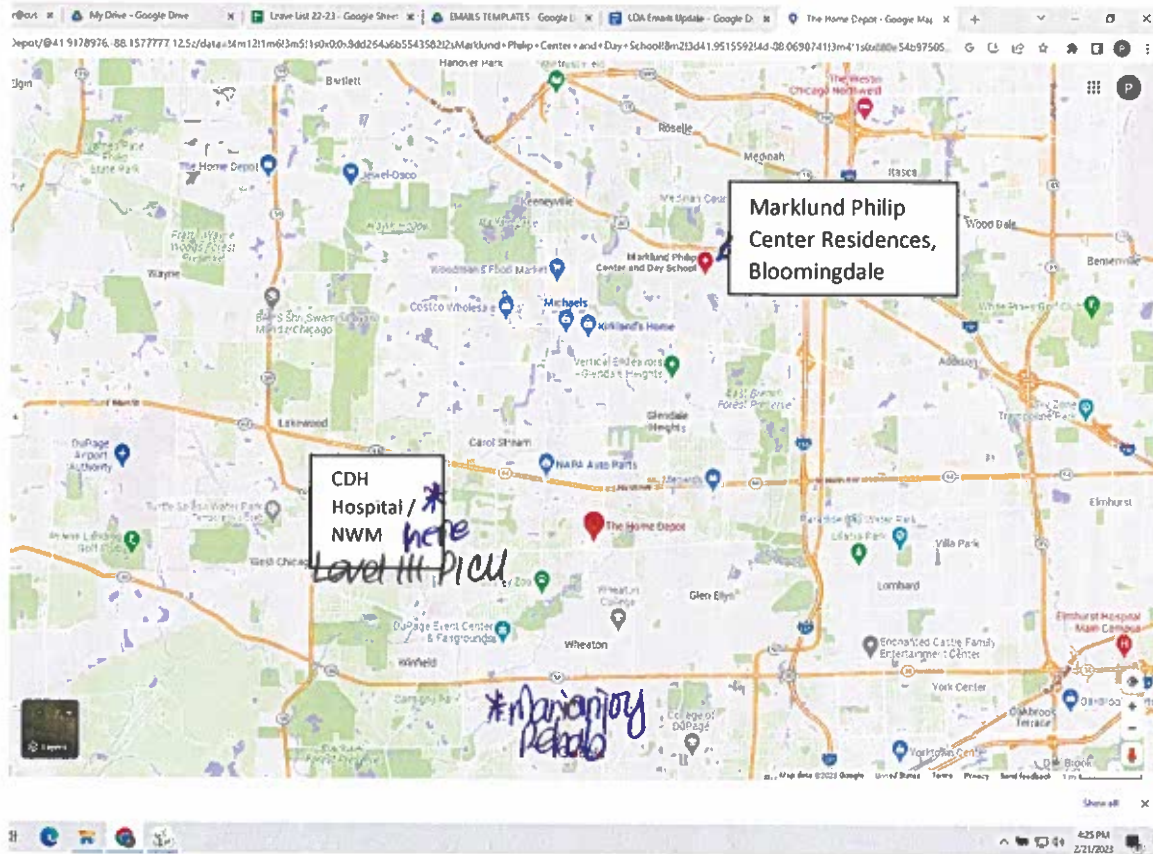
DuPage County has a level 3 PICU, NWM, Marianjoy, and proximity to Childrens Hospital that can support these kids.

Printed Name and Signature

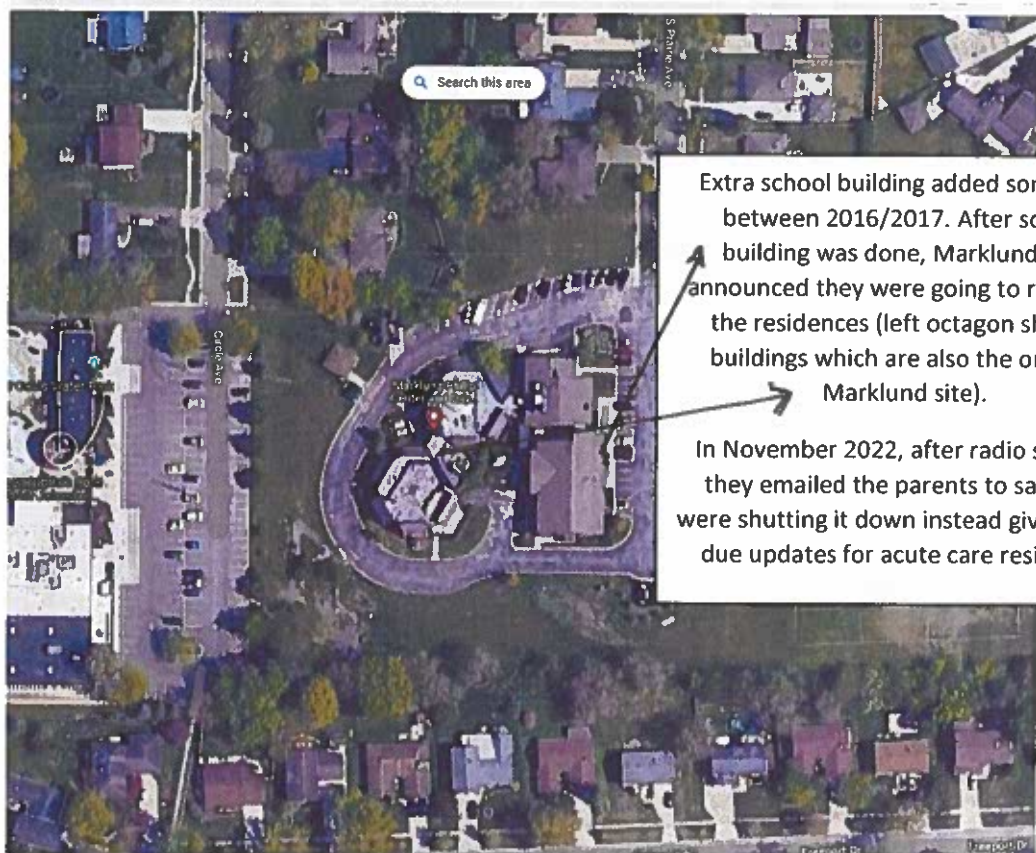
City of Residence

Sandra Alexander	Glen Ellyn
Amy R. Brandt	McN Ellyn
Sara Brown	Glen Ellyn
[Signature]	Glen Ellyn
Synthia S. Mason	Glen Ellyn
[Signature]	Glen Ellyn
[Signature]	Glen Ellyn
[Signature]	Glen Ellyn
Dawn Kramer	Glen Ellyn
Margo Wiseman	Glen Ellyn
Sarah Watson	Wheaton
[Signature]	Wheaton
Kathy Ruggio	Wheaton
[Signature]	Wheaton
[Signature]	Saint Charles
[Signature]	St. Charles
Jorelle Schon	CAROL STREAM
Dianna Hutchison	Warrenville
Jennifer Schon	Carol Stream
Tracy MacInnachie	Warrenville
Budget Dickinson	Wheaton
[Signature]	Wheaton
[Signature]	Oswego
Betty Kamber	CAROL STREAM
Julie Coyle	West Chicago
Kristen Olson	Wheaton
Colleen Johnson	Glen Ellyn
Linda Newman	Glen Ellyn
[Signature]	Glen Ellyn
[Signature]	Glen Ellyn
Elizabeth Tabor	Glen Ellyn
MICHELLE Tabor	Glen Ellyn
JOHN DEYNE	GLENN ELLYN

A



B



Extra school building added sometime between 2016/2017. After school building was done, Marklund CEO announced they were going to renovate the residences (left octagon shaped buildings which are also the original Marklund site).

In November 2022, after radio silence, they emailed the parents to say they were shutting it down instead giving it it's due updates for acute care residents.

February 19, 2023

Ms. Debra Savage
Chair

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

Re: The Closure of Marklund Bloomingdale Philip Center Residences (22-049 - Marklund Proposal)

Dear Ms. Savage:

I am writing to you to oppose the closure of Marklund's Philip Center residences located in Bloomingdale, IL. It is a 21-bed facility that takes care of children with complex medical needs.

I personally know a family whose child lives at the Marklund Bloomingdale residences. From what they have shared with me, their child has received consistent nurse care over the years because they have had a consistent core of nurses there. The Bloomingdale facility also features a round shaped floor plan with the nurse's station in the middle, which helps the nurses and aides attend to the residents quickly and consistently. It is the setting for many social gatherings which are important for the kids' social and emotional needs. It doesn't have long hallways like those at the Elgin facility.

Many of the kids in Bloomingdale are seen by doctors and specialists who are mostly located in Wheaton and Glen Ellyn and as far as downtown Chicago at Children's or Rush Medical. If they are moved to a larger facility like Wasmond Ctr in Elgin, that will increase the amount of time that their nurses will have to be away from their facility, further increasing the patient to nurse ratio in Elgin.

Because of Marklund's accessible location in Bloomingdale, my friends are able to visit their child as often as possible in order to continue to be his best advocates. When their child needs to be in the ER or PICU for longer hospitalization, they are able to quickly get to CDH, a short drive from Bloomingdale, and help relieve the Marklund nurse, allowing that nurse to be back in the Bloomingdale facility sooner, rather than later.

I heard that Marklund leadership has thrown out various reasons for the closure, the latest one being that in order to update the HVAC system, they have to tear down the entire building. The Bloomingdale facility is the original site so they would've known about pressing issues for sometime, if any. Had they made a big deal about this and made a collective appeal to their big and small donors, such as myself, I would have donated money to that worthy cause. But from '16-'17, they built an extra school at the same site instead, taking space from residences.

The plan that Marklund leadership is proposing is supposed to make their services more accessible but it seems it's being concentrated in one area because they already have two facilities in that north/northwest corner of Kane and Cook counties. Closing down their Bloomingdale children's home and moving the kids to Elgin actually limits accessibility in 2 ways: it leaves a void in DuPage County's health care system (CDH's Level II PICU, NWM, proximity to Children's, etc) that is equipped to handle kids like my friends' son and 2) it limits their son's access to that system. Furthermore, the beds that they plan to add at their Elgin facility won't be for new clients but rather for the kids being moved from Bloomingdale, leaving only a handful for potential new clients.

Please do not let Marklund close down the Bloomingdale children's home. It is the one of very few options in the DuPage region for families, like my friend's, that offers a quasi-PICU setting for kids with acute medical needs.

Sincerely,

Name *Sandra Alexander*
Resident of: *Glen Ellyn*

February 19, 2023

Ms. Debra Savage
Chair

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Springfield, IL 62761

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Sincerely,



Name JP ROZON
Resident of:

520 CARLISLE CT, GLEN ELYN

February 19, 2023

Ms. Debra Savage

Chair

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor

Springfield, IL 62761

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Sincerely,



Name

Resident of:

Glen Ellyn, Illinois

February 19, 2023

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Chair

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Name

Resident of:

February 19, 2023

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Chair

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525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor

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Name

Resident of:

February 19, 2023

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Chair

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525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

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Sincerely,



Name

Resident of: Wheaton

February 19, 2023

Ms. Debra Savage

Chair

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor

Springfield, IL 62761

Re: The Closure of Marklund Bloomingdale Philip Center Residences (22-049 - Marklund Proposal)

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Sincerely,

Name

Resident of:


Glen Ellyn

February 24, 2023

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

Re: The Closure of Marklund Bloomingdale Philip Center Residences (22-049 - Marklund Proposal)

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I personally know a family whose child lives at the Marklund Bloomingdale residences. From what they have shared with me, their child has received excellent nurse care over the years because they have had a consistent core of nurses.

Many of the kids in Bloomingdale are seen by doctors and specialists who are mostly located in Wheaton and Glen Ellyn and as far as downtown Chicago at Lurie Children's or Rush Medical. If this facility closes, they may need to establish a relationship with new medical providers or travel far from home.

The Bloomingdale location is near many of the families' homes which allows them to visit frequently. This is important to the family and the resident. Ideally there would be a facility in Dupage county and not only in Kane and Cook.

Please do not let Marklund close the Bloomingdale children's home. It is the one of very few options in the DuPage region for families.

Sincerely,


Name
Sandra Lawinger
Resident of:
Glen Ellyn, Illinois