



JB Pritzker, Governor

Grace B. Hou, Secretary

Developmental Disabilities

600 East Ash • Building 400 • Springfield, IL 62703

March 7, 2023

Gilbert Fonger
President & CEO
Marklund
15450 Wyatt Drive
Geneva, IL 60134

Dear Mr. Fonger:

This letter is in response to the letter written by Anne Cooper of Polsinelli on Marklund's behalf, requesting a letter of support for the expansion of Marklund's medically complex for developmentally disabled (MC/DD) facility, Marklund Wasmond Center, located at 1435 Summit Street, Elgin, IL 60120. Per the letter, Marklund is seeking to expand the MC/DD facility by 24 beds, from its existing 61 beds to 85 beds.

We understand that the expansion of the Marklund Wasmond Center is being done in concert with the closure of the Marklund Philip Center, a 30-bed facility located at 164 South Prairie Avenue, Bloomingdale, Illinois 60108. We understand that the Wasmond Center is Marklund's more modern facility while the Philip Center is an older, smaller facility. We understand that expanding the Wasmond Center will allow Marklund to expand access to the more specialized services available at this facility. We also understand that these two (2) facilities are only eleven (11) miles apart, allowing Marklund to continue to provide services to the individuals currently residing at the Philip Center at the Wasmond Center once it is expanded.

While national best practice standards call for the development and creation of services that are home-based or provided in small residential settings, we do understand the need for more medical facilities to serve and support those youth with more complex support needs. We also understand the important role Marklund has played over the course of its history in serving and supporting these youth and giving them a meaningful life.

Given the above information regarding the reasons for the expansion of Marklund Wasmond Center, combined with the closure of Marklund Philip Center, the Department of Human Services, is in support of your application for expansion of the Marklund Wasmond Center.

Sincerely,

Sarah Myerscough-Mueller
Interim Director
IDHS Division of Developmental Disabilities

CC: Grace Hou, Secretary, IDHS
John Kniery, Administrator, Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
Anne M. Cooper, Polsinelli