



February 7, 2023

Ms. Debra Savage, Chairwoman
IL Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Re: Support Letter: HSHS St. Mary's Hospital in Decatur / Certificate of
Need Application for Discontinuation of Services

Dear Chairwoman Savage:

Thank you to HSHS for informing us of the plans to close the AMI, OB and comprehensive physical rehabilitation units at St. Mary's Hospital in Decatur. As a major Catholic healthcare provider in Central Illinois OSF supports the planned discontinuation of these services.

OSF understands and appreciates the difficult decision HSHS has come to regarding the planned service closures. We are increasingly concerned about the behavioral health capacities and capabilities of hospitals in central Illinois to meet the needs of residents for hospitalization for psychiatric care. The closure of the unit at Decatur will be the 14th AMI unit closing in Illinois in the past ten years. These closures eliminated over 300 AMI beds. 10 of the past closures have been at downstate hospitals. Central Illinois lacks a center of excellence in behavioral health, as evidenced by the thousands of residents who leave their planning areas to get inpatient psychiatric care. This recognition has led US HealthVest, in partnership with OSF, to plan a 100-bed behavioral hospital in Peoria, to meet the needs of patients who are not treated locally, but travel to locations in suburban Chicago, other parts of Illinois and out of State for care. US HealthVest and OSF have filed a permit application with the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board for the proposed new behavioral hospital in Peoria, anticipating review by the State this spring. The schedule is to have the new hospital open in late 2025.

In the meantime, OSF Heart of Mary Medical Center is able to accommodate an additional daily census of psychiatric patients in its existing 25 bed AMI unit. OSF Heart of Mary Medical Center will also be able to provide obstetrical and inpatient rehabilitation services to patients requiring these services. This facility is located 50 miles from Decatur.

We understand that as part of this process and because of major financial challenges and utilization, St. Mary's will file Certificate of Need ("CON") application for the discontinuation of obstetrical, inpatient behavioral health, pediatric and inpatient rehabilitation services. As previously stated, OSF will assist in providing care for patients requiring psychiatric, OB and inpatient rehabilitation services.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Robert Sehring, CEO
OSF Healthcare System

Cc: John P. Kniery, HFSRB Administrator