DARIN LAHOOD

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COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE



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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

November 3, 2022

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

Dear Chairwoman Savage and Members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board:

I am pleased to offer my support for US HealthVest and OSF Healthcare System's plan to build a 100-bed behavioral health hospital in Peoria, Illinois through a joint venture, which will allow local access to inpatient behavioral health care.

Nationwide, one in five adults suffers from a diagnosable mental illness in a given year. Every day, 123 Americans die by suicide and there is one death by suicide in the US every 12 minutes. Mental illness, whether acute or chronic, is a serious concern.

Specifically, the design and construction of a new inpatient mental health hospital with a full continuum of services in Peoria will help address these unmet needs. People who require varying levels of behavioral health care will find the compassion, support, and access to clinical expertise they need, close to home.

Within all relevant rules and regulations, it is my hope that you will give US HealthVest and OSF Healthcare System's plan full and fair consideration. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or my District Director, Brad Stotler, at (309)671-7027.

Sincerely,

Darin LaHood

Member of Congress