

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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DAVE VELLA
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
ILLINOIS 68TH DISTRICT

October 20, 2022

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

Re: US HealthVest and OSF Healthcare System Behavioral Health Hospital Letter of Support

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

As an elected official for the Illinois 68th District, addressing my constituents' concerns is of the utmost importance to me. I am writing to express my support of the plans by US HealthVest and OSF Healthcare System to build a 100-bed behavioral health hospital in Peoria, Illinois through a joint venture.

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 across communities I represent.

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.

I stand with US HealthVest and OSF in supporting patients and families who are seeking local access to inpatient behavioral health care. I appreciate your consideration and request your support of this project and approval by the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Vella", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

DAVE VELLA
State Representative – Illinois 68th District