



SAINT JAMES-JOHN W. ALBRECHT
MEDICAL CENTER

February 21, 2023

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 Adult Behavioral Health Hospital
Project: 23-008 Letter of Support**

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

This letter is to support the proposed adult behavioral health hospital in Peoria.

As a healthcare professional of 36 years, I know firsthand the challenges our communities face with mental and behavioral health. While there are many health care needs in Illinois, behavioral health care continuously ranks as one of residents' top concerns, as it should.

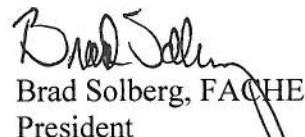
This proposed 100-bed adult hospital will increase access to behavioral health services throughout Illinois. As the largest facility south of Chicago, it will provide inpatient behavioral health resources for some of the most vulnerable individuals and families, regardless of ability to pay.

In addition, this hospital will offer a unique dual diagnosis, geriatric and other specialty programs. Inpatient psychiatric beds prevent inpatients being deferred or even denied necessary mental health treatment.

Furthermore, this facility will help ensure patients are set up for long-term success through aftercare services, and patients and families will benefit from having the services they need available locally – saving both time and money.

I urge you to support the approval of the certificate of need application for US HealthVest and OSF. Approval of this application will increase access to these services that are in great need.

Sincerely,



Brad Solberg, FACHE
President

OSF Healthcare Saint James-John W. Albrecht Medical Center