



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
PEORIA

Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine

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

February 23, 2023

RE: US HealthVest and OSF Healthcare System Adult Behavioral Health Hospital
Project: 23-008 Letter of Support

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

As a healthcare professional, I know firsthand the challenges our community faces 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. Individuals and families need and deserve access to these critically important services.

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

In addition to offering inpatient psychiatric beds, I understand this hospital will offer dual diagnosis, geriatric and aftercare services and will be available to persons without healthcare insurance. This hospital will help fill the current and growing unmet need in Peoria and the surrounding area for inpatient psychiatric care.

Please consider supporting a certificate of need application for US HealthVest and OSF. Approval of this application will increase access to these important services in our area.

Sincerely,

R. Finkenbine

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Ryan Finkenbine, MD