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**Peoria City/County
Health Department**

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March 3, 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 Chairwoman Savage and Members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board:

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

As the public health administrator of Peoria County, our agency knows firsthand the challenges our community faces with mental and behavioral health. In coordination with our local health departments, healthcare systems, and social service agencies, we routinely assess the health needs and priorities of the community, and behavioral health continuously ranks as one of residents' top concerns. Individuals and families, specifically those with limited insurance, 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. It has the potential to provide greatly needed inpatient behavioral health resources for some of the most vulnerable individuals and families, regardless of ability to pay.

In addition to offering inpatient psychiatric beds, this hospital will have unique offerings such as dual diagnosis, geriatric and other specialty programs. This hospital will help support the growing need in Peoria and the surrounding area, which often results in patients being deferred or even denied necessary mental health treatment or requiring to travel great distances for support.

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 important services in our area.

Sincerely,

Monica Hendrickson
Public Health Administrator
Peoria City/County Health Department