

November 1, 2024

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

Dear Ms. Savage,

It is my pleasure to provide a letter of support for the requested addition of beds to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital (ALGH). I have had the privilege of serving as Chief Medical Officer at ALGH since 2019. More importantly, I walked through the doors of this special place over thirty years ago and have been nothing less than proud of the care and service ALGH provides its patients. I not only have provided, but also have received care at ALGH.

Lutheran General is unique in that it not only serves the need of an aging, medically complex community, but also provides quaternary highly specialized, higher level of care for a much larger population. Lutheran General also acts as a teaching site for physician, nurses, and other health care providers. A number of highly specialized programs have been added including most recently an epilepsy monitoring unit, allowing critical medication adjustments in patients with uncontrolled seizures. In addition to significant growth in stroke care volume, ALGH has also experienced growth in advanced cardiology care and is a referral site for complex procedures in many other spaces such as gastroenterology. All of these programs exist in an environment which still supports a Level One Trauma Center and a Level 3 maternal /neonatal center.

The growth in essential programs such as these, along with taking care of the surrounding community, has created a need for extra beds in order to provide the level of care our patients have come to expect in a safe environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



James Keller, MD
Chief Medical Officer

Advocate Lutheran General Hospital