

August 15, 2025

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

Re: Letter of Support
CON Project 25-026
Discontinuation of Select Services
OSF Heart of Mary Medical Center, Urbana

Dear Chairwoman Savage:

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed transformation by OSF HealthCare to align services at OSF HealthCare Heart of Mary Medical Center in Urbana and OSF HealthCare Sacred Heart Medical Center in Danville into one hospital with two campuses.

This project represents a critical opportunity to address one of the most pressing health care needs for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the surrounding region: expanded behavioral health services for young adults. College-age individuals (ages 18–26) face unique mental health challenges, often navigating the transition to independence while balancing academic, financial, and social pressures. The demand for timely, specialized care has grown dramatically, yet resources remain limited.

The addition of acute mental illness beds at the Urbana campus is a strategic and urgently needed investment in this population. These beds, coupled with expanded outpatient behavioral health services, will help ensure students and young adults in east central Illinois can access care close to where they live, study, and work. This expansion also strengthens the continuum of care by providing both inpatient stabilization and ongoing outpatient treatment, improving outcomes and reducing unnecessary hospital readmissions.

The University of Illinois community benefits greatly when students have access to robust mental health services. Supporting their behavioral health not only aids academic success but also contributes to overall campus well-being and community safety. OSF's plan aligns

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resources where they will have the greatest impact, addressing a documented shortage of behavioral health beds in the state while ensuring care is tailored to the needs of this vital age group.

I respectfully urge the Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve this project. It is a forward-thinking, mission-driven solution that will improve access, enhance sustainability, and ensure the young adults of our community receive the care they need during some of the most formative years of their lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Mark S. Cohen MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the "MD" written in a slightly larger, more distinct font at the end.

Mark S. Cohen, MD, FSSO, FACS, MAMSE
Dean, Carle Illinois College of Medicine
Senior Vice President and Chief Academic Officer, Carle Health
Professor of Surgery and Biomedical and Translational Sciences,
Carle Illinois College of Medicine
Founder Professor in Bioengineering, The Grainger College of Engineering
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

c: John T. Barnhart, President, OSF Heart of Mary Medical Center
Karen Brodbeck, Director of Public Relations, OSF HealthCare
Mark Hohulin, Senior Vice President, Healthcare Analytics, OSF HealthCare