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October 27, 2025

Illinois Health Facilities and Service Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street (2nd Floor)
Springfield, IL 62761

Subject: Written Comment for Proposed Project #25-031, Oak Hill Senior Living Rehabilitation Center, 623 Hamacher Street, Waterloo, Illinois.

Illinois Health Facilities and Service Review Board:

I am writing this to indicate that I am opposed to the County Commissioners leasing Oak Hill to Accolade Healthcare.

I am a resident of Monroe County and have been for over 50 years. I have had family members and relatives, including children that have been employed by the Monroe County Nursing Home/Oak Hill. Have also had relatives as residents of Oak Hill.

At one time, the County had an Advisory Board for the Nursing Home. It is my understanding that the Advisory Board was not active during or since COVID. Members of this Board were approved by the County Commissioners and was comprised of Local Business Leaders, Licensed Physicians, Ministers from Local Churches, and a retired Director of Nursing. The Commissioners could have easily revived the Advisory Board to assist with considering options in maintaining the feasibility of Oak Hill. This would have provided some TRANSPARANCY to the County residents. Decisions made by the Commissioners that included input and support from the Advisory Board would have had a better chance of acceptance over what has been presented to date by the Commissioners.

Since the Commissioners stated they do not have the expertise necessary to operate Oak Hill, looking at other options other than those proposed could have been accomplished. Town meetings could have been held and the taxpayers should have been informed of their intentions. Unfortunately, this was not done, and to-date little to no information is being released to the taxpayers.

In the October 25, 2025 issue of the Republic Times, the local paper, the Monroe County Treasurer stated Oak Hill is “not making money, but not really losing money”. With lack of

TRANSPARANCY, how do the residents of Monroe County know the true financial position of Oak Hill?

When asked what other nursing home managers, healthcare consultants or healthcare management firms the Commissioners met with other than Accolade, no response was given. Absence of a response certainly leads to the conclusion that **only** a lease to Accolade was considered vs other viable options.

According to published documents by CMS, Accolade Healthcare has a less than desirable rating within the state of Illinois for facilities they manage. If this firm has the expertise and skilled personnel necessary to operate High Quality nursing facilities, why are their ratings so low, and why so many fines and documented deficiencies? According to CMS, Accolade Healthcare has had approximately 97 complaints and total fines of approximately \$459,000 over the **past three years**.

The residents of Oak Hill, their families, employees of Oak Hill, and the residents of Monroe County deserve more than what has been done to-date to resolve the Oak Hill issues. If the external management of Oak Hill is our only option, it appears Accolade Healthcare **is not the best solution**.

The Monroe County Nursing Home (Oak Hill) continues to survive because there are many who remain devoted to our mission: "SERVICE and DEVOTION to MANKIND" as documented in the 50th Anniversary Edition of Cooking with Grace.

Respectfully,

Dan DeWilde