

COUNTY OF KANE

Jennifer Abbatacola
Kane County Board Member
District #9



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Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

ATTN: Certificate of Need Review Committee

RE: Letter of Support — Sycamore Specialty Hospital LTACH/IRF Application

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

I am writing as the Kane County Board member representing District 9, the far northwestern corner of the county and the community closest to our neighbors in DeKalb County, to express my support for Sycamore Specialty Hospital's application to reopen the former Kindred Hospital facility as a 52-bed long-term acute care and inpatient rehabilitation hospital.

District 9 sits at the edge of one of the fastest-growing parts of Kane County, with adults over 55 already approaching half of our total population. Growth at that pace adds real pressure to a healthcare system that is already stretched, and post-acute care is no exception.

We felt that pressure directly when Kindred Hospital closed and DeKalb County was left without a single bed. Today, residents who need extended ventilator weaning, complex wound care, or intensive stroke rehabilitation are referred to facilities in Chicago or Rockford often more than an hour away. For the patients themselves, that is a hardship. For their families, particularly the older spouses and adult children who do the driving, it is frequently untenable. Choosing between holding down a job and getting a parent to rehabilitation appointments, or simply giving up on visiting a hospitalized spouse because the drive itself becomes a health risk. This is too much to ask of families.

Sycamore Specialty Hospital's location restores a level of care that this region built, supported, and then lost. It does not introduce a new service into a market that already has it; it brings back a service this region went without for over a year. That distinction matters for a Certificate of Need review, and it matters even more to the families who will use it.

This project also reflects exactly the kind of reinvestment our region needs as our economy and population shift: adaptive reuse of existing healthcare infrastructure rather than new sprawl, skilled healthcare jobs in a sector that is already one of our largest employers, and a physician-led model with strong support from doctors across the region.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Board to approve Sycamore Specialty Hospital's Certificate of Need application. Restoring this care close to home is the right call for the patients and families who will depend on it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Swanson Abbatacola
Kane County Board Member, District 9