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Debra Savage
Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street,
2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Dear Chairman Savage:

I am a physician who practices electrophysiology with extensive experience performing procedures on medically complex patients throughout my career. I practice in multiple healthcare systems, including in the Rockford area and with Winnebago County, where I have cared for patients whose conditions often require coordinated multidisciplinary treatment and specialized hospital services. I am writing in support of the proposed establishment of Sycamore Specialty Hospital, a longterm acute care hospital to be located at 225 Edward Street, Sycamore, Illinois. The restoration of the former Kindred Hospital Sycamore as a dual-service hospital offering both long-term acute care and inpatient rehabilitation services will strengthen the continuum of care for patients throughout Northern Illinois and is vital for patients such as mine.

To give a case vignette, today I am admitting to University of Wisconsin Hospital Northern Illinois Hospital (The old Swedish American in Rockford) a wheelchair bound paraplegic in his 30's for rehabilitation and possible medication adjustment. This patient is so, so much more appropriate for an excellent place such as Sycamore Specialty Hospital where his subacute and chronic concerns will get addressed rather than being possibly overlooked as they usually are in acute care hospitals that are more focused ona patients with a different level of acuity and different chief complaints. At Sycamore Specialty Hospital all members of my team could

have input to his care, whereas when we admit to University of Wisconsin Hospital Northern Illinois different caregivers are involved who rotate frequently and are hard to identify, and only I am able to give input sporadically, for I can not round there every day due to how far it is from my clinics in Hoffman Estates at Ascnesion St. Alexius Hospital and by Endeavor Edward Heart Hospital where I have my other clinic. .

Throughout my practice, I have treated many patients with serious and complex medical conditions who require ongoing specialized care following acute hospitalization. These patients often benefit from access to physicians, nursing staff, rehabilitation services, and multidisciplinary care only available in a long-term acute care hospital. Having these services available closer to home would improve continuity of care, support appropriate patient placement, and help ensure patients receive the level of care their conditions demand.

Based on my experience caring for medically complex patients across the region, I believe Sycamore Specialty Hospital would become an important resource for physicians and a valuable asset to the communities it will serve. I anticipate it will be commended by local providers and gain a great reputation.

The information in this letter is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I enthusiastically support the establishment of Sycamore Specialty Hospital.

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