

July 3, 2026

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

Dear Ms. Savage:

My name is Dr. Yazan Fahmawi, and I am a pulmonologist at UW Health SwedishAmerican Hospital in Rockford, Illinois. I am writing in support of the proposed establishment of Sycamore Specialty Hospital, a long-term acute care hospital to be located at 225 Edward Street in Sycamore, Illinois. In my practice, I care for patients with chronic and severe pulmonary conditions, respiratory failure, prolonged ventilator dependence, and other medically complex illnesses that often require extended hospital-level care and coordinated rehabilitation. Due to the absence of local long-term acute care and inpatient rehabilitation services in the Sycamore / DeKalb area some of these patients must be transferred to distant facilities or remain in general acute care hospitals longer than clinically necessary. The establishment of Sycamore Specialty Hospital would allow appropriate patients to receive specialized long-term acute care and rehabilitation closer to home, supporting continuity of care and recovery.

As a pulmonologist, I routinely care for patients whose recovery extends well beyond the acute phase of their illness. Many require continued ventilator weaning, pulmonary rehabilitation, complex respiratory management, specialized nursing care, and coordinated multidisciplinary treatment before they are ready to return home or transition to a lower level of care. Long-term acute care hospitals provide an essential resource for these medically complex patients by delivering the specialized services necessary to optimize recovery and improve clinical outcomes.

Based on my clinical experience caring for patients throughout the Rockford region, I believe Sycamore Specialty Hospital will strengthen the healthcare continuum by expanding access to specialized post-acute care services and improving transitions from acute care hospitals. The reopening of this facility will benefit patients, families, referring physicians, and hospitals throughout Northern Illinois.

The information in this letter is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I fully support the establishment of Sycamore Specialty Hospital.

Sincerely,

 [Yazan Fahmawi \(Jul 3, 2026 10:09:15 CDT\)](#)

Yazan Fahmawi, MD
UW Health Clinic Pulmonary Medicine
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Rockford, IL 61104

Dr. Yazan Fahmawi - General Letter of Support

Final Audit Report

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