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BRADLEY J. FRITTS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
74TH DISTRICT

Dear Chair Savage,

I am writing in strong support of the application submitted on behalf of Sycamore Specialty Hospital for approval to establish a long-term acute care hospital (LTACH) and inpatient rehabilitation facility (IRF) to serve Sycamore, DeKalb County, and the surrounding region.

This project addresses a clear and urgent healthcare need. Following the closure of the former Kindred Hospital in 2025, DeKalb County was left with no LTACH beds and no inpatient rehabilitation beds. As a result, medically complex patients now must travel significant distances—often to Chicago or Rockford—to receive appropriate post-acute care. This disruption places unnecessary burdens on patients and families and complicates discharge planning for local acute-care hospitals.

Sycamore Specialty Hospital's proposal to reopen the former 69-bed facility at 225 Edward Street as a modern, 52-bed hospital offering integrated LTACH and IRF services represents a thoughtful and proven solution. The hybrid model allows patients to transition seamlessly from extended medical stabilization—such as ventilator weaning, complex wound care, and post-surgical recovery—to intensive inpatient rehabilitation for stroke, traumatic injury, and other serious conditions. This integrated approach improves patient outcomes, enhances continuity of care, and reflects best practices in post-acute healthcare delivery.

Local hospitals continue to report difficulty placing patients who require specialized post-acute services, leading to delayed discharges and, in some cases, less appropriate care settings. Restoring these services within DeKalb County will strengthen the regional healthcare system, reduce unnecessary transfers, and allow patients to remain closer to their homes and support networks during critical stages of recovery.

Beyond its clinical importance, this project represents a meaningful long-term investment in the community. The planned renovation, staffing, and operation of Sycamore Specialty Hospital will create skilled clinical, administrative, and support jobs while contributing to local economic activity and workforce development. The phased project timeline—from property acquisition and facility assessment in early 2026, through renovation, staffing, and licensing, to reopening in late 2026 or early 2027—demonstrates a realistic and responsible approach to implementation.

For these reasons, I strongly support the establishment of Sycamore Specialty Hospital and believe it will deliver lasting healthcare, economic, and quality-of-life benefits for Sycamore, DeKalb County, and the broader northern Illinois region.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. Please feel free to reach out to my office with questions by phone at 815-561-3690 or by email at Fritts@ILHouseGOP.org

Sincerely,

Bradley J. Fritts

State Representative Bradley J. Fritts
District 74