

June 23, 2026

Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board

ATTN: Letter of support for Sycamore Specialty Hospital LTACH Application

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

On behalf of the Sycamore Chamber of Commerce and our nearly 500 member businesses, nonprofits, and community organizations, I am writing to express our strong support for the proposed Sycamore Specialty Hospital and its Certificate of Need application.

As CEO of the Sycamore Chamber of Commerce, I have the privilege of representing organizations of every size and sector that share a common goal: fostering a healthy, vibrant, and economically resilient community. The reopening of the former Kindred Hospital facility at 225 Edward Street as Sycamore Specialty Hospital represents a significant opportunity to advance that goal.

When Kindred Hospital closed in 2025, our region lost critical specialized post-acute care services, leaving DeKalb County without Long-Term Acute Care Hospital (LTACH) beds or Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) beds. Patients requiring these levels of care have since been forced to travel to Chicago, Rockford, or other distant communities, placing additional strain on families and creating challenges for local healthcare providers. Restoring these services locally will improve access to care, support better patient outcomes, and allow residents to remain closer to their loved ones during recovery.

This project is about more than healthcare; it is an investment in the future of our community. A thriving healthcare ecosystem is a cornerstone of economic vitality. Businesses considering relocation or expansion look closely at the quality and accessibility of healthcare services available to their employees and families. Existing employers depend on strong healthcare infrastructure to attract and retain talent. By reestablishing specialized care services in Sycamore, this project strengthens our region's competitiveness and enhances our quality of life.

The hospital's focus on medically complex patients, including those requiring ventilator support, intensive rehabilitation, stroke recovery, wound care, and trauma recovery, fills an essential gap in the continuum of care. It also supports our acute-care hospitals by ensuring patients can transition appropriately to specialized post-acute settings, improving efficiency across the healthcare system and reducing delays in care.

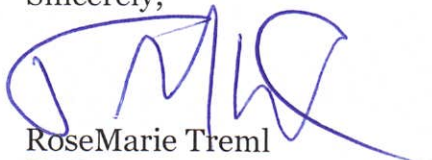
Additionally, Sycamore Specialty Hospital will create and sustain high-quality healthcare jobs, generating economic activity that benefits businesses throughout DeKalb County. Healthcare is one of the region's largest employment sectors, and investments in this industry create ripple effects that support local suppliers, restaurants, retailers, service providers, and countless other businesses.

The Sycamore Chamber of Commerce believes strongly in initiatives that strengthen our community's long-term health and prosperity. *Our mission is to champion a thriving business community and cultivate a vibrant destination where businesses prosper, residents thrive, and visitors feel welcome.* Sycamore Specialty Hospital aligns with our mission and values by expanding healthcare access, creating jobs, improving patient outcomes, and investing in the wellbeing of current and future generations.

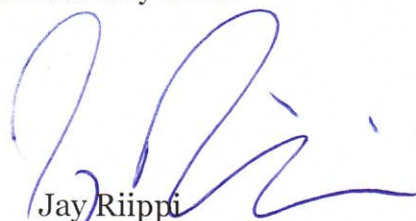
For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board to approve the Certificate of Need application for Sycamore Specialty Hospital.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to ensuring Illinois communities have access to the healthcare services they need.

Sincerely,



RoseMarie Trembl
CEO



Jay Riippi
Board President