



June 22, 2026

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

ATTN: Letter of Support for Sycamore Specialty Hospital LTACH Application

Dear Members of the Illinois Facilities and Services Review Board:

I am writing to express my support for the application submitted by Sycamore Specialty Hospital to establish a Long-Term Acute Care Hospital in Sycamore Illinois, previously the Kindred Hospital.

I am the Executive Director of Voluntary Action Center of Northern Illinois (VAC), with our main office in Sycamore. Our organization has been in existence for over 50 years. We provide Paratransit services for rural DeKalb County, and Kendall County and Meals on Wheels and congregate programs in DeKalb, LaSalle Bureau and Putnam Counties. Our organization focuses on the senior population in these areas with the intent to help these individuals remain in their homes and live independently, with dignity, health and self-sufficiency.

It is no secret that the senior population is on a rapid growth trajectory. This segment of our aging population will not only need increasing capacity for our services but also a LTACH such as the Sycamore Specialty Hospital. One aspect of our service that is often overlooked is the impact to family members and caregivers of our clients. For example, we are transporting individuals with limited mobility to doctor's offices that family members often are unable to provide or due to geographic distances or work constraints. Besides providing a healthy hot meal, our drivers who deliver our meals are a physical touchpoint to individuals that may not see or hear from another person that day. Similarly, having a LTACH in Sycamore is a much more convenient and assessable location for family members to visit patients. The closing of Kindred has redirected patients to facilities substantially further away, creating hardships for patients and family members. Access to care should not require lengthy travel times, especially for individuals recovering from serious illnesses, complex medical conditions, or extended hospitalizations.

Administrative Office:
1606 Bethany Road, Sycamore, IL 60178
815-758-3932
815-758-0202 Fax
www.vacdk.org
[email: info@vacdk.org](mailto:info@vacdk.org)



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In addition, the Sycamore Specialty Hospital would be complementary to health care services currently provided by Northwest Medicine and the DeKalb County Nursing and Rehab Center with VAC and the City of DeKalb providing paratransit services.

I respectfully urge the Illinois Facilities and Services Review Board to approve the Certificate of Need application for Sycamore Specialty Hospital. Doing so will strengthen healthcare access, support an aging population and ensure that residents of our growing communities continue to receive the specialized care they need close to home.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nate Kloster', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nate Kloster

Executive Director