



June 2, 2026

Debra Savage, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W Jefferson St, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board,

I am writing in support of a new proposed long term care facility in Champaign County.

A recent market study and needs assessment confirmed that **Champaign County is already short hundreds of needed skilled nursing beds**. And considering the demographics expected in our region, the number will only grow.

I personally experienced how a lack of local beds can disrupt life. In June 2024 my mother-in-law needed to move from assisted living to skilled nursing. The closest location we found with a quality rating is in a neighboring county, a 30-minute drive from Urbana. It became an extreme hardship for her to be that far away only one month after she moved in.

My husband became gravely ill and was hospitalized in Urbana for nearly three months until his death in October 2024. During that time, it fell to me to help both my mother-in law AND my husband. If she were in town and a five-minute drive, I would have been able to see her. Since time was limited, I spent most of it with my husband. It was more than sad to have to choose not to see my mother-in-law for weeks on end, especially since her dementia symptoms increased and she was confused as to why her son was not visiting.

I am sure there are many families who now have much farther to travel than I did to be part of their loved ones' lives.

I encourage you to support the proposed facility.

Sincerely,

Dana Mancuso