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JUN 6 2026



CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
ILLINOIS

From: Lilly Wood ckwood1810@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Please write a letter of support for our proposed skilled-care facility
Date: June 3, 2026 at 3:20 PM
To: Ann Sussman ann325@gmail.com

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my concern regarding the lack of skilled nursing beds in Champaign County, Illinois.

Champaign county is made up of about 998 square miles and is the 5th largest county in Illinois. According to Census.gov, our population in 2024 was about 212,000 people, making it the 10th most populous county in Illinois.

It is hard to believe that such a big county only has 4 skilled nursing facilities. After the closure of 3 nursing facilities in 2019, resulting in the loss of 463 skilled nursing beds. There is currently a discrepancy of over 300 skilled nursing beds for what is actually needed to support our population, making it one of the worst skilled nursing shortages in the state.

This makes it incredibly hard for families to find a place for their loved ones to live and adds unnecessary stress and travel costs to place a loved one somewhere much further away, if that is even possible. This is also at a time of severe vulnerability of our elderly loved ones and a time when family is needed most.

I strongly support AAC's (Advocates for Aging Care's) mission to open a new facility in Champaign county that will add 120 licensed skilled nursing beds in our community. Although this will not totally bridge the gap of our bed shortage, it will be a great start to get our county back to where it needs to be. It is important that we are able to care for our aging loved ones, free up our precious hospital space and to fill the gap between hospital and home that we are desperately lacking in.

Please consider approving this project, as it is of upmost importance for the long-term health of our county.

Thank you,

Lillian Wood
1403 Brookhaven Drive,
Mahomet, Illinois, 61853
217-991-0606

On Wed, Jun 3, 2026 at 3:13 PM Ann Sussman <ann325@gmail.com> wrote:
Lilly,

I just dropped off some flyers at your home, after running into your husband and daughter in town.

I have been active for the past three years in a local grass-roots group called Advocates for Aging Care. I know we talked about this last summer.

Our first project is to bring more skilled-care beds to Champaign County because we do not have enough to meet the needs of our community. The severe shortage of beds is a new issue in our area. Over the past decade, 3 of our nursing homes closed and another reduced their number from 100 to 50 beds.

The issue of a lack of beds in our area is personal for me. When my dad's health declined and I wanted to bring him here to live near me, I could not secure an available bed for him. He remained on a waitlist for six months before he passed. This experience motivated me to become an advocate for our community. Specifically, the community that may need a skilled-care bed for rehab to home, or in my dad's case, for long-term care.

Attached to this email are 4 flyers that I just dropped off for you. They talk to the issue and what we are doing to solve it. Opening a skilled-care facility requires lots of things, including approval from the state. We have submitted our request with the state and a public hearing is