



June 9, 2026

Debra Savage, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street (2nd Floor)
Springfield, IL 62761

RECEIVED

JUN 11 2026

HEALTH FACILITIES
REVIEW BOARD

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

On behalf of the City of Urbana, I am writing to offer my strong support for the efforts of Advocates for Aging Care (AAC) to establish a high-quality, innovative skilled nursing facility in Champaign County.

The need for additional skilled nursing capacity in Champaign County is both significant and urgent. Champaign County is projected to have the largest shortage of skilled nursing beds in Illinois, with a deficit exceeding 300 beds—approximately 40 percent of current need. The closure of three nursing homes since 2018 has further strained the system, leaving many families struggling to secure appropriate placement and care for their loved ones. These challenges affect not only older residents but also hospitals, healthcare providers, and families throughout our community.

Since 2023, AAC has united residents, healthcare professionals, educators, and community leaders around a vision to develop a Green House model facility that provides innovative, person-centered care while promoting dignity, independence, and quality of life for older adults. Through a campus of small residential cottages that foster meaningful relationships and individualized care, AAC aims to establish a model of innovative, high-quality long-term care that can serve as an example for communities across Illinois and the nation.

I am particularly encouraged by AAC's collaborative approach. The organization has engaged local hospitals, clinics, community agencies, the University of Illinois, and Parkland College to develop sustainable partnerships that will strengthen workforce development, healthcare delivery, and community engagement.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to strongly consider the proposals advanced by Advocates for Aging Care. Their work addresses a critical public need and offers a thoughtful, innovative solution that will benefit generations of Champaign County residents.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to ensuring access to quality healthcare services throughout Illinois.

Sincerely,

DeShawn B. Williams
Mayor